

Hardline group quits Palestinian bodies

AMMAN (AP) — A hardline Muslim fundamentalist group announced Sunday it was withdrawing from the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) institutions to protest Palestinian peace efforts with Israel. Al Jihad Al Islami-Bait Al Maqdes said it was quitting the PLO's National Council and the Palestine Central Council. Al Jihad Al Islami's leader, Sheikh Assad Bayyoud Tamimi, accused PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, a former ally, of "selling out" Palestine. "He is not the chosen one to determine the fate of Palestine," Sheikh Tamimi told a news conference. "Some day, someone will come and liberate Palestine." Sheikh Tamimi's group has six seats in the 468-member Palestine National Council and three seats in the 100-member Palestine Central Council. The central council serves as a go-between the PNC and the PLO's governing executive council. "We will escalate armed struggle to liberate all of Palestine," Sheikh Tamimi said.



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جورديان تيمز يومية سياسية عربية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية والرأي

65% of Palestinians approve of accord

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Sixty-five per cent of Palestinians in the occupied territories back the autonomy accord with Israel for the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho, according to a poll released Sunday. The survey, conducted by the Independent Centre for Palestine Research and Studies, said 65 per cent of the Palestinians were for the agreement to be signed today in Washington that begins with an Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Jericho. 28 per cent opposed it and seven per cent were undecided. Fifty-six per cent favoured a change in the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) charter and recognition of Israel's right to exist. In line with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's commitment to do so, while 34 per cent were against it. Forty-six per cent supported an end to the anti-Israeli uprising in the occupied territories which began in December 1987 against 42 per cent who wanted it to continue. The poll of 1,200 residents of the West Bank and Gaza Strip was conducted on Sept. 10.

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Middle East turns a page today

PLO and Israel to sign peace agreement

Combined agency dispatches

WASHINGTON — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin flew to Washington Sunday to endorse a momentous Middle East peace agreement.

Mr. Arafat, head of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), and Mr. Rabin will attend the signing of an autonomy agreement between the PLO and Israel at the White House Monday.

Dressed in the traditional headcovering and a military uniform, Mr. Arafat descended the steps and was welcomed by a crowd of people, including about 20 Arab diplomats.

"I am very happy to be here to make peace in this historical moment," Mr. Arafat told reporters. "I am very grateful for what President (Bill) Clinton has done for the peace process."

"I am extremely happy to be here to work for a just peace in the land of Palestine," he said. Mr. Arafat was accompanied by a 15-strong PLO delegation for the flight from Tunis to Andrews Air Force base outside Washington.

He arrived at 3:40 p.m. (1940 GMT) on a Boeing 707 jetliner brought by King Hassan II of Morocco. Mr. Arafat was met by U.S.

Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Edward Djerejian and the State Department's assistant chief of protocol, Mary French.

No diplomats from Syria, Lebanon and Kuwait were among those welcoming the PLO chief. Mr. Djerejian and Ms. French were to meet Mr. Rabin when he arrives later Sunday, a State Department official said.

Mr. Arafat's trip is his first to the United States since 1974, when he addressed the U.N. General Assembly with a pistol in one hand and an olive branch in the other.

In addition to attending the signing ceremony, Mr. Arafat will meet with Secretary of State Warren Christopher at the State Department, Mr. Christopher said Sunday.

Mr. Christopher said the agreement would be signed at the "ministerial" level, not by Mr. Arafat or Mr. Rabin. Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres will sign for Israel and Mr. Arafat's No. 2 on the mission, Mahmoud Abbas, will probably sign for the PLO.

Mr. Christopher said it was of tremendous symbolic value that Mr. Rabin and Mr. Arafat be present at the signing of the document. "It's very important that both

(Arafat and Rabin) are going to be here. With respect to Mr. Arafat it really puts him on the line. He's out there before the entire world, committing to this agreement," Mr. Christopher added.

Mr. Arafat was confident of his position as he boarded the flight to Washington a city he has never visited.

"It is a historical, very important moment and it is a step on the right road leading to a Palestinian state," he said. "We hope to achieve very soon real peace and just peace in the land of peace."

Mr. Rabin tried to assure his critics, who were alarmed last week when Mr. Arafat said a Palestinian flag would someday fly over Jerusalem.

"I assure Chairman Arafat that the Palestinian flag will not be over Jerusalem. Jerusalem will remain always united under Israel's sovereignty and our capital forever. The capital of Israel. The capital of the Jewish people. He can forget about it."

PLO adviser Nabil Sheath was equally emphatic in stating the Palestinian position. "We shall work to negotiate with him (Rabin) and bring about a decision whereby an independent Palestinian state with East

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Palestinians wave a portrait of Yasser Arafat and Palestinian flags during a demonstration in Gaza City (AFP photo)

Tarawneh to represent Jordan; U.S. efforts fail to get ministers

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan's Ambassador to Washington, Fayed Tarawneh, will represent the Kingdom at the signing ceremony of the agreement between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) at the White House today.

Official sources said Dr. Tarawneh will be attending the ceremony as Jordan's ambassador to the U.S. and not as head of the Kingdom's negotiating team to the Middle East peace talks.

The decision to assign Dr. Tarawneh to represent Jordan at the occasion was taken after Washington failed in efforts to get the foreign ministers of the Arab parties to attend the ceremony, other sources said.

The U.S. wanted to have the same level representation as the Madrid conference in October 1991, which launched the Middle East peace process. Jordan might have accepted

the proposal if other Arab parties involved in the peace process agreed to same level of representation, but it turned down the idea when others, apparently Syria, refused to send its foreign minister, the sources said.

Syria has refused to extend public endorsement for the Israeli-PLO accord, saying only that the Palestinians were free to decide for themselves their course of action.

The acceptance of the American proposal for high-level representation at the signing ceremony would have meant Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali, who is also foreign minister, going to Washington.

Dr. Majali attended that Madrid conference as head of Jordan's peace negotiating team.

Another consideration behind Jordan's decision not to send a high-level delegation to the signing of the Israel-PLO accord was a desire "not to overshadow" the Palestinian

side, according to the sources.

His Majesty King Hussein said over the weekend that Friday's formalisation of mutual recognition between the PLO and Israel was a good beginning and expressed hope that it would lead to a comprehensive settlement of the Middle East conflict in all its dimension.

The King also called for Palestinian unity in an apparent reference to the opposition to the accord by several Palestinian groups within and outside the PLO umbrella.

According to the sources, whose account of participation in today's ceremony contrasted earlier reports that Jordan was not invited at all to the signing, said President Bill Clinton had contacted King Hussein over the phone in London from aboard Air Force One early Saturday.

It was not known what the King and President Clinton discussed.

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4 Israelis and 3 Palestinians killed

Combined agency dispatches

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — Four Israelis and three Palestinians died Sunday when Muslim fundamentalists went on the offensive against the signing of the Israeli-Palestinian peace deal in Washington.

A lone 19-year-old Palestinian stabbed to death an Israeli bus driver and tried to kill passengers before being shot dead by a soldier, while Hamas men killed three troops, and two Palestinians were killed by their own bombs.

The bus attack took place on a main road outside the port city of Ashdod, south of Tel Aviv. The Egged private bus service was on a regular shuttle from Ashkelon to Ashdod along the Mediterranean coast when the man boarded at a stop and drew a big knife and a grenade.

He attacked the driver and went for other passengers before a soldier pumped several bullets into him. A female soldier and the serviceman who killed the Palestinian were hurt as the bus tipped over when the driver braked.

Police said they found a tract from Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement which is bitterly

opposed to the peace deal.

The army confirmed that three soldiers were killed Sunday morning in gunfire in an ambush east of Gaza City.

It said that a flyer left at the site claimed responsibility in the name of the Izzeddin Al Qassam group, the military wing of the Hamas fundamentalist group.

In calls to press offices in Gaza City, a man said the Islamic Jihad "assumes responsibility for taking the weapons of the Israeli soldiers and leaving their bodies to the dogs."

"Our Zeiton operation has succeeded," the caller said. "It is a gift to Yasser Arafat, the peace settlement and all the traitors."

The bullet-ridden corpses were found inside a jeep near a mosque at Zeiton, on the edge of Gaza City.

"Two or three (men) opened fire from an ambush and the patrol returned fire but the (assailants) kept firing and the jeep smashed into a wall," an army spokesman said.

The soldiers were on patrol down a country road surrounded by fields. The assailants made off with two automatic weapons. Troops sealed off the area and

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Hamas wants talks, PLO official reports

Combined agency dispatches

LONDON — The Muslim fundamentalist Palestinian movement Hamas, which rejects the autonomy deal with Israel, wants to talk to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), the organisation's representative in Britain said Sunday.

Afif Safiyyeh told BBC Television that Hamas had "sent us a message saying that they would like to meet with the PLO and the Fatah leadership," the main group in the PLO.

On Saturday, Hamas, called for the Jihad (holy war) to continue to liberate all Palestine saying that the PLO's recognition of Israel was a betrayal of the Palestinian people.

But Mr. Safiyyeh said he was "very confident" that all Palestinians would eventually accept the accord.

He was "very encouraged" by statements from Hamas officials that they were determined to avoid a Palestinian civil war despite their fierce opposition to the accord drawn up in secret talks between Israel and the PLO.

The two sides mutually recognised each other Friday and are to sign an agreement in Washington on Monday on limited auton-

omy starting in the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho. Yemen agreed Saturday to a request from Hamas to sponsor inter-Palestinian talks on the disputed peace process, "provided all Palestinian groups agree."

Palestinian groups opposed to the PLO-Israel peace agreement have called for "a day of wrath" on Monday to protest the Washington signing of the accord.

The hardliners' call in Damascus for demonstrations among Palestinian refugees in Syrian camps was echoed in Lebanon by Colonel Munir Makdah, a former supporter of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat who commands the 2,000 Lebanon-based guerrillas from Mr. Arafat's own Fatah faction.

It was unclear how large the response would be among Palestinian refugees opposed to the pact.

Lebanon's pro-Iranian Hizbollah demanded Palestinians do much more to wreck the Israeli-PLO pact.

At a rally to honour the 150 people killed in an Israeli blitz on South Lebanon in July, an estimated 6,000 Palestinians and Hizbollah supporters denounced Mr. Arafat as "a Jewish spy."

Continued economic disparity in Mideast is risky venture — Regent

Man in street should feel being part of peacemaking

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, said one of the major concerns of Jordan in the Middle East was the continuing disparity between the haves and have-nots which, if allowed to continue, could lead to increased despair among the people.

The Regent, in an interview with CNN, also said the success of the peace process hinged on the man in the street accepting it as credible.

"I think the worst scenario is to go back from peacemaking to confrontation," he said. "That is what we want to avoid at all costs, and that is why the peacemaking has to be credible to the man in the street, to be tangible in terms of the dynamics of the process, people in the camps here in Jordan, whether green card holders or yellow card (people who can visit the occupied territories and those who cannot) or temporary laissez-passer... the stateless who have returned from Kuwait."

"All these people have to feel that they have a share in peacemaking."

The Regent was asked whether the development of a Palestinian

state was "potentially a risk and threatening venture for Jordan."

The Regent replied: "The only risky venture is to continue the disparity between haves and have-nots. I have been speaking for years about the fact that the income of the individuals, Palestinians in the territories, is equal to that of Bangladesh."

He said the per capita income of the Palestinians was \$800. "I have been talking about disparity in terms of one to 20 in GDP, and I am very worried that unless we have a catalytic role..."

"The World Bank, the international fund, have to look at the political economy of the region. Unless that happens, we are going to see an even stronger Israel at the expense of the region, and I think that many Israelis don't want to see that. They want to become part of the region on the basis of mutual respect."

The Regent said the progress on the Israeli-Palestinian track, as represented in the autonomy agreement between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), had cleared the way

for Jordan to finalise its agenda for peace talks with Israel. He said he expected the announcement of agreement on the agenda to be announced Tuesday.

The regent said Jordan's reservations over the autonomy agreement "if they exist at all, all over not only at the lack of (Jordanian-Palestinian) coordination (but also) because it came as a surprise to us all — that is in the past — but more significantly over the contents."

"Firstly it is going to be a three-year withdrawal period or regrouping in terms of the interim. After all, this is a declaration of principles. We hope it is not going to be the final deal. We are committed to a comprehensive peace settlement based on U.N. resolutions 242 and 338 and we hope it will be the first step as, indeed, the Palestinians share this hope, quite clearly, towards seeing an independent Palestinian entity in what is today occupied territories, the West Bank, including Jerusalem and Gaza."

The Regent underlined the importance Jordan attaches to Jerusalem and the Islamic holy shrines there. "Jordan continues

to be responsible for the support of Islamic waqf... which is a patrimony and not a political issue as such," he said. "In that context, obviously we have been approached in Muslim-Christian dialogue with the Vatican with a very clear position that Jordanian responsibility is an extension of... responsibility since the days of the Ottoman empire. So this is a very weighty issue."

"I think the Palestinians are very clear on Jordanian legitimacy in this regard," he said. "We are fully supportive of Palestinian rights and indeed we will only relinquish sovereignty to Palestine and not to Israel."

Asked whether Jordan and other Arab states were willing to recognise Israel's "right to exist," the Regent said:

"The very participation in the Madrid conference and indeed the forthcoming agenda (between Jordan and Israel)... are further affirmation of the fact that we recognise Israel's right to exist."

"If Israel is to be part of the Middle East region (that) means a reminder of the question:

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Supporters and opponents of accord vie to win Palestinian hearts and minds

From Lamis Andoni Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — On the eve of the historic signing of the Israeli-Palestinian accord supporters and opponents of PLO leader Yasser Arafat's peace strategy are vying to influence the Palestinian movement and people inside and outside the occupied territories.

Both sides, however, seem so far unable to formulate plans to ensure Palestinian national unity and to prevent the disintegration of the PLO as tensions are building up particularly in the occupied territories and the refugee camps in the diaspora.

Although the channels of communications between the two parties have not been closed, through debates and contacts, the Palestinian movement is undergoing fundamental transformation that is rapidly altering the nature of the PLO and its structure and shrinking its base of support, according to political analysts.

The most alarming changes in the PLO, in the view of analysts and PLO officials, is that the organisation is gradually losing its role as a broad coalition representing the minimum consensus among the diverse Palestinian trends and factions.

Practically speaking and especially following the resignations of three independent figures and two representatives of major groups, the PLO has been reduced to a representative of Fatah and the Palestine People's Party (PPP) — the former Communists.

But even Fatah, the backbone of the PLO and Arafat's own faction, has not escaped the political divisions triggered by the accord on limited Palestinian autonomy, reached in Oslo last month, and the terms of the mutual recognition between Israel and the PLO.

Leading Fatah figures, including three of its cofounders, have opposed the two agreements while many of the rank and file of the movement are seriously alarmed by the con-

cessions the PLO has accepted. According to Fatah sources, the opposition inside the movement itself is holding intensive contacts to declare a unified stand prior to reaching an agreement with the other groups on what is to be done.

Fatah leaders, who oppose the agreement, are obviously trying to avoid a split in the movement, which had suffered a serious and bloody dissent in 1983.

Furthermore, the PPP, which announced a sudden but qualified endorsement of the accord last week — after having suspended its participation in the peace process — is at odds with Mr. Arafat over his leadership style. The PPP has stipulated the democratisation of the PLO institution as a precondition for its full participation in further negotiations on the basis of the agreements reached with Israel.

The opposition, which comes from very diverse ideological backgrounds, has not decided yet on how to proceed and counter Mr. Arafat.

In private, the opposition figures concede that the accord is irreversible and the most that they could do is to find ways to minimise the damage for the Palestinian people.

The opposition groups, mainly the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), Hamas and a considerable number of prominent independent personalities, seem perplexed over the next step since they are trying to avoid further splits, if not civil war, in the territories.

Despite repeated statements by Hamas, the PFLP and the DFLP, that the three factions, together and separately, will not resort to violence against the Palestinian autonomy, clashes have already started in the occupied territories between supporters and opponents of the accord with Israel.

The situation is expected to become more complicated once the autonomy is established, especially that the three groups, in addition to other

smaller dissident factions in Damascus, have vowed to continue resisting Israeli occupation during the interim period.

Mr. Arafat has already committed himself to preventing violence against Israel once autonomy is established in Gaza and Jericho in accordance with the Israeli-Palestinian agreement.

Supporters of the accord scuff at the threats made by the opposition groups: "We have not seen or heard of an escalation of resistance acts by either the PFLP or DFLP... what are they talking about?" asked one senior PLO official.

But even if the arguments of the supporters of the accord are true, in terms of an evident weakening of armed resistance over the last two years, one of the main reasons cited by opponents of the peace accords with Israel is the wide-spread concern that the Palestinian autonomy authorities would be turned into a repressive tool to end the Palestinian resistance.

A statement made by the PLO representative in Tunis

Hakam Balawi on Israeli television last week reinforced these claims. In the interview Mr. Balawi said that the PLO will be tough and firm with any party that seeks to violate that agreement.

PLO executive committee member Yasser Abedd Rabo, presented a different attitude by repeatedly stressing that pluralism and opposition were "part of the Palestinian democratic tradition."

The conflicting statements by two of the proponents of the accord, indicate that the attitude of the future Palestinian authority remains ambiguous and seems to not be agreed upon.

Moreover, critics of Mr. Arafat are very sceptical that the future authority will tolerate opposition, especially that the accord and the mutual recognition agreement were formulated behind the backs of the Palestinian decision-making bodies. They also cite the emphasis, by the leadership, on forming a sizable police force in Gaza and Jericho.

Many Palestinians became more suspicious as the annexes of the accord revealed that the two sides have agreed on cooperation in security matters.

"One cannot but wonder — security cooperation against who... our own people," said Abdullah Hourani, who suspended his membership in the PLO executive committee on Saturday.

But despite the strong criticism, efforts so far have not succeeded in charting out a unified strategy.

Opposition officials and figures, contacted by the Jordan Times, have all said they were seeking to form a broad coalition or alliance against the accord and formulate a unified action plan.

But there are many questions that are still to be addressed by the opposition, which in the view of political analysts, will have to also shoulder the responsibility of the fate of the Palestinian people and cause, even if it was not part of the accord with Israel.

One question that is being

raised but so far not publicly promoted, is whether it is in the interest of the Palestinian people to form a coalition outside the PLO, leading to an alternative organisation, or whether the opposition should maintain its place within the movement and try to safeguard its unity and prevent its further disintegration.

Hamas, the only sizable opposition faction outside the PLO body, has already asked Yemen to mediate with the PLO leadership. Some analysts believe that Hamas is trying to ensure itself some sort of power sharing during the interim period — as a pragmatic tactic to survive and to consolidate its influence.

Hamas counters that it is trying to avoid Palestinian infighting.

The final decision of the Palestinian opposition will largely and finally depend on the popular response to the accord and to the PLO, since none can afford to alienate the Palestinian people, especially inside the occupied territories.

Clinton: No cut in aid to Israel

NEW YORK (R) — President Bill Clinton has promised no cut in military or economic aid to Israel because of the peace agreement with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) but says the U.S. will look to Japan, Europe and Arab states like Saudi Arabia to mainly finance rebuilding of the region.

"One of the things that I really hope to do ... is to reassure the people of Israel that the United States is committed to their security," Mr. Clinton said in an interview published in Sunday's editions of the New York Times.

He added that just because the Israeli government is signing an accord with its former arch-enemy, the PLO, it did not mean that the United States was going to start reducing aid or military support to the country — already about \$3 billion a year.

His administration's goal, Mr. Clinton was quoted as saying, was to assure the Israeli people that "they are more secure and not less secure because this is done and that the United States is still there."

"I think that is the most important thing now as they absorb this."

In the interview, his first since the breakthrough towards peace in the Middle East, Mr. Clinton said he expected U.S. economic contributions to the New Palestinian entities in the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho would be what the Times report of the interview described as "modest."

Mr. Clinton said he saw Washington's job as providing "seed money" while most of the aid would be contributed by Japan, the European Community, Scandinavia and the Gulf Arab states, all of which have given him indications of support.

King Fahd of Saudi Arabia is among those who have pledged their support, Mr. Clinton told the Times, despite lingering resentment of over Palestinian support for Iraq in the Gulf war.

Mr. Clinton said Syrian President Hafez Al Assad had assured him that he too was prepared to endorse the Israel-PLO accord. But he added that Mr. Assad had cautioned him that the accord could not stand alone and had to be followed by a breakthrough on the Syrian-Israeli track.

The Times quoted an unnamed Clinton aide as saying President Assad told Mr. Clinton: "If there is no comprehensive peace, this will not stand on its feet. If there are long periods of time with no progress these difficulties will grow greater. We should not let time go by without serious work."

The Times paraphrased the U.S. leader as saying his administration still opposes the creation of an independent Palestinian state. But it added that he said the Israelis and Palestinians should decide such issues themselves.



Bill Clinton

Mr. Clinton was also quoted as saying that he hoped Iran would not oppose the mideast peace breakthrough.

By supporting the move towards peace, he said, Tehran could "change course" and open up the possibility of a different relationship with Washington and the West.

At one point in the wide-ranging interview, Mr. Clinton conceded that he and other heads of state were "still adjusting" to the last-minute changes in Israeli-Palestinian relations.

But he said the accord, which he will host the signing of at the White House Monday, held out the promise of something far more than a diplomatic breakthrough.

"The beauty of this moment is that each of them (Israelis and Palestinians), in a funny way, has given the other the chance to have a normal life," he said.

"While they are nowhere near agreement on what the end of Palestinian self-determination looks like, still they have given each other a sense of place. No matter what you say, there is a sense of roots, of place."

'Additional' guarantees

A series of discussions over the role of the United States as guarantor of the historic pact between Israel and the PLO will be held in Washington, the Washington Post reported Sunday.

An unidentified administration official told the Post that President Clinton personally had pledged to Israel "additional guarantees" that its security will be protected as it takes steps towards a wider Middle East peace with its Arab neighbours.

The paper said the official would not define the additional guarantees, but said the president "would make our position clear."

As talks on final peace and territorial agreements approach, according to the Post, discussions are likely to focus on assurances that Israel has sought related to continued military and economic aid, transfers of high tech military equipment and direct feeds from U.S. intelligence satellites.

Australia welcomes peace accord

CANBERRA — The minister for foreign affairs, Senator Gareth Evans, said Friday that Australia unreservedly welcomed the agreement by Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to recognise each other, formally ending nearly 30 years of unbroken hostility.

"We understand that the agreement will take the form of an exchange of letters of mutual recognition. In these letters the PLO recognises the right of the State of Israel to exist in peace and security. The PLO also commits itself to peaceful resolution of the conflict between the Palestinians and Israel and renounces the use of terrorism and other acts of violence. For its part, Israel has decided to recognise the PLO as the representative of the Palestinian people and commence negotiations with the PLO within the Middle East Peace Process."

"Agreement on mutual recognition now opens the way for the formal conclusion of the agreement on Palestinian self-rule, which is scheduled to take place in Washington on Monday."

"We hope very much that the agreement on Palestinian self-rule will now act as a catalyst and stimulate progress in the other bilateral negotiating tracks between Israel and Jordan, Syria and Lebanon," Mr. Evans said.

Mr. Evans said that Australia has long held the view that direct contacts with the PLO were essential to engage that organisation in a meaningful and constructive dialogue, and to strengthen the moderate elements that Australia has known exist within it. He said that was why the Australian government had recently decided to permit an official from PLO headquarters in Tunis to take up a position in the PLO office in Canberra.

On the question of Australia's own recognition policy, Mr. Evans said that Australia had for many years accepted that the PLO represents the opinion of a significant proportion of the Palestinian people but had not, however, accepted the PLO's claim to be the sole representative of the Palestinian people.

"Now, in light of today's dramatic developments and the agreement of the Israeli government to recognise the PLO as the representative of the Palestinian people, Australia will itself act in that same way in the future," Mr. Evans said.

Mr. Evans said that this did not of course constitute recognition by Australia of the PLO as a sovereign state. The creation of an independent State of Palestine, may well be the ultimate outcome of the peace process, but it is quite premature to anticipate that process at this stage.

"At long last, the olive branch is taking precedence over the freedom fighter's gun," Australian Embassy press release



An Israeli border policeman guards arrested Palestinians in the Shawfat refugee camp in north Jerusalem Sunday where the Israeli army sealed two Palestinian homes (AFP photo)

PLO plans to deploy fighters as security force in autonomy area

By John Halaby

The Associated Press

AMMAN — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is mustering its fighters scattered around the Arab World to move into the occupied territories as a security force by the end of the year when the peace accord with Israel takes effect, officials said.

They said up to 20,000 members of the Palestine Liberation Army (PLA), formed in 1964 as the PLO's conventional military arm, would maintain law and order in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho when the Israeli army pulls out.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat is clearly determined to build up his military muscle in the autonomous zones to prevent trouble when he takes over.

Hardline Palestinian factions oppose the peace accord between the PLO and Israel, raising the spectre of inter-Palestinian bloodletting as well as attacks on Israeli settlers in the occupied territories.

The autonomy agreement envisages an Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho in four to six months.

The rest of the occupied West Bank will remain under Israeli control, but the Palestinians living there will have limited autonomy.

The final status of the territories, seized by Israel in the 1967 Middle East war, will be decided in negotiations beginning not later than the third year of autonomy.

The PLO officials, who

spoke to the Associated Press on condition of anonymity, said a PLA advance guard will be sent to Jericho ahead of Mr. Arafat's expected arrival there later in the year.

"We expect things to be mostly in place by December, and have tentatively set the end of the year for Abu Ammar (Arafat's nom de guerre) to move himself to Jericho and Gaza," said one official close to Mr. Arafat.

"Part of the PLA forces are now undergoing training as police in cooperation with the security organisations of the host countries," he said.

PLO sources in Tunis reported that Mr. Arafat has sent his military commanders to Arab states where the movement has its fighters to oversee training for their new role.

Another senior PLO official said Israel had agreed during secret negotiations in Oslo, which led to the autonomy accord, that the heaviest weapons the security force could have were machine guns.

"The force will be like any other regular army, but will not have heavy weapons or artillery," he said.

Limiting the security force's firepower appeared to be at the insistence of the Israelis to prevent any potential military threat to the Jewish state emerging.

The PLA was formed with an initial strength of 12,000 to 14,000 men, nominally under PLO control. But the units are effectively commanded by the armies of the host governments, which pay for their upkeep.

PLA units fought against Israel in the 1967 and 1973 Middle East war and in 1982, when Israel invaded Lebanon. The Israeli's 1982 invasion of Lebanon forced the Palestinians out of Beirut and the PLO's forces were scattered around the Arab World.

Now PLA is understood to be around 30,000 to 35,000 regulars and irregulars in nine brigades.

The Hittin Brigade is attached to the Syrian army, the Badr Brigade is in Jordan and the Aqsa Brigade in Iraq.

The Ajnadin Brigade is stationed in Algeria, the Sabra and Shatila brigades in Yemen, the Al Quds Brigade in Libya, the 'In Jalout brigade in Egypt and the Beirut Al Qadisiyah Brigade in Sudan.

The PLO official said Mr. Arafat could face problems moving the PLA units from Syria to the autonomous areas.

"All other countries have responded positively to our requests that PLA forces in their territories be moved, but we haven't heard from the Syrians yet," he said.

Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, a long-time rival of Mr. Arafat, angered at him for breaking ranks to negotiate secretly with the Jewish state, has not publicly blessed the PLO-Israel agreement.

The PLO officials said PLA brigadier Tareq Al Khadra, who is based in Damascus, has been tentatively named as commander of the planned security force in what appeared to be an effort to persuade him to place his units under PLO control.

Lebanese want Arafat 'happy and far away'

By Mohammad Salam
The Associated Press

BEIRUT — Ordinary Lebanese Friday welcomed the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) pact on mutual recognition and asked God to "make Arafat happy and keep him away."

The remark, which is a common saying in Lebanon, was repeated by at least 10 Lebanese interviewed separately on their reaction to the mutual recognition treaty.

Yasser Arafat's guerrillas were based in Lebanon for 13 years, and friction between Palestinians and Maronite Christians helped touch off the civil war in 1975.

Khalil Kashour, a Shiite Muslim who lives in Beirut's Fakhani district where Mr. Arafat had his command headquarters from 1969-1982, said: "Now he has something to keep him busy, far from here. I hope he will also deal with his Palestinian opponents far away from us."

However, the nearly 317,000 Palestinian refugees in Lebanon were split. Syrian-backed and fundamentalist Muslim factions, who make up nearly 15 per cent of the community, have declared their opposition to the agreement.

The anti-Arafat Palestinian groups, better known as the

"Damascus 10," called for demonstrations at refugee camps.

Only 2,500 of the 33,500 refugees at the camps of Nabatieh and Beddawi in Lebanon took part in a one-day rally after the noon-time Friday prayers to pronounce Mr. Arafat a traitor and set fire to a Arafat dummy.

About 20 Palestinian children were told to step on the dummy and smoking dummy to express their anger and opposition to Mr. Arafat.

The children, aged 8-14 years joyfully jumped on the dummy but abruptly interrupted their play when a guerrilla official shouted at them: "This is an expression of anger. Not a party."

At the refugee camp on Rashidiyeh in South Lebanon, where beyond the control of Syria 40,000 peacekeepers troops, Lebanon, pro-Arafat Palestinians have been decorating power poles, walls, doors, cars and orange trees with the guerrilla leader's posters to express the backing to his policies.

"Tell me what wrong has Arafat done?" asked Ibrahim Khoury, a 42-year-old refugee Rashidiyeh.

"He's accepted autonomy in Gaza and Jericho as a first step. That's fine. Before this we had an autonomy and homeland anywhere," Mr. Khoury added.

Italy denies it paid Aided's clansmen

ROME (AP) — Italy's Defence Minister Sunday angrily denied a report that his forces in Somalia paid a warlord's clan not to shoot at them and that the Nigerian peacekeepers' refusal to pay sparked a deadly clash.

"How many other unfounded accusations will they invent?" Defence Minister Fabio Fabbrì said in a news release.

Mr. Fabbrì was meeting Sunday with visiting U.S. Defence Secretary Les Aspin, after Italy criticised a U.S.-led crackdown on fugitive Somalia warlord Mohammed Farrah Aided and called for negotiations.

Seven Nigerian U.N. troops died last Sunday when Somali gunmen ambushed their unit as it prepared to take over from Italian forces that were to move out of an area of Mogadishu.

Nigerian soldiers in the 28-nation U.N. force accused the Italians of failing to back them up during the shootout, while the Italians contend they needed to protect their checkpoint that was also surrounded by angry Somalis.

The Times of London on Saturday quoted a "confidential Nigerian account sent to U.N. headquarters" in New York, saying the Italians paid \$200 a month to protection money to each elder

and \$60 a month to each militia man in the area, populated by Gen. Aided's Habr-Gedir clan.

"After the completely unfounded story on the lack of support" by Italian troops during the ambush, "today we hear their story, equally unfounded and ridiculous that a some money was paid to the elders of the neighbourhood," Mr. Fabbrì said.

"Always against the Italians guilty only of having been right," he said.

Italian officials contend the good relations they developed with the Somalis, aided by a common language in the former Italian colony, have prevented violence as U.N. forces ensure shipments to a country shattered by civil war.

Italy has been critical of dead U.S.-led raids in search of Gen. Aided, who is held responsible for attacks that have killed dozens of U.N. troops since June.

The Times reported that Italian and Nigerian officers had met in the aftermath of the ambush "to ensure a smooth transfer of control at the checkpoint."

The newspaper report said the meeting clansmen told the Nigerians of their financial arrangement with the Italian unit

Israelis' response to PLO accord far more muted than in Sadat visit

By Allyn Fisher
The Associated Press

TEL AVIV — When Egyptian President Anwar Sadat got off his plane in 1977 and became the first Arab leader to visit occupied Jerusalem, Israelis were euphoric.

They rushed into the streets by the thousands to greet him, newspapers gushed about the dawn of a new era and there was sea change in the thinking of many Israelis about the possibility of long lasting peace with the Arabs.

Sixteen years later, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's peacemaking with another arch-enemy, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO),

has received a far more sober response.

A business-as-usual attitude pervaded most of occupied Jerusalem Friday after Mr. Rabin signed a terse letter recognising the PLO. In the central Ben-Yehuda mall, shoppers were in their pre-Sabbath routine of buying flowers and visiting with friends.

Scepticism was fuelled by the obvious absence of PLO leader Yasser Arafat or any other Arab official at the signing ceremony, a telling absence that showed reconciliation was incomplete.

Disturb of Palestinian intentions was the first sentence uttered by many who were asked what they thought of the

agreement.

"I don't believe the PLO. In my opinion, Rabin gave them something without getting anything in return," said Avi Natat, 29, an electronics technician.

Mr. Natat doubted better relations with the PLO would be far reaching enough to ensure that Israelis will see a significant cut in their military reserve duty any time soon.

"We may have to do even more reserve duty with all the work that implementing the agreement will take," Mr. Natat said, referring to the mammoth task of redeploying the army to give Palestinians self-rule in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank city of Jericho.

"Other Israelis were more worried that the self-rule plan that was supposed to be started in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank area around Jericho would grow into a Palestinian state that would threaten Israel."

"Gaza we don't need. If that will bring peace then that's possible to give up," said Sima Davidian, 42, a civil engineer, referring to the impoverished, refugee-packed coastal strip that is home to some 800,000 Palestinians.

"But I wouldn't give up more than that," Mrs. Davidian said. "We aren't sure about all of this. We are taking a risk, and we don't feel safe."

Itai Gabai, an 18-year-old who is scheduled to begin his three-year compulsory army service this month, was doubtful the agreement would reduce the risks he faces.

"I think they will just continue with their wars. You cannot trust them. Now they will just want more and more land," Gabai said, smoking a cigarette at a sidewalk cafe. "Next they will get Jerusalem and little, maybe the whole country."

A friend seated next to him, Aviad Avraham, differed. "Good for Rabin that he has succeeded in bringing peace," Avraham, 17, said. "Recognising the PLO is fine, as long as

they really stop the uprising and terrorism."

Canoe researcher Avi Treves, 47, was more optimistic. "It's a wonderful agreement," he said reaching for some cheese at the supermarket. "It gives us a chance to have peace."

Right-wing demonstrators banged pots and pans, whistled and booed to show their displeasure. Many were religious settlers, who object to yielding the land of "Biblical Israel" to the Arabs.

Some also are anxious about what will happen once Palestinians run their own police force in the West Bank and Gaza.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 73111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 "Les Images"
19:00 News in French
19:15 The Weekly Sport Magazine
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Golden Girls
21:00 Thirtysomething
22:00 News in English
22:30 Le Gerant

PRAYER TIMES

04:55 Fajr
06:11 (Sunrise) Doha
12:32 Dhuhur
16:04 Asr
18:51 Maghrib
20:09 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedisch, Tel. 810740
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637400
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrasanta Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 625226
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 823854, 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675991

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Weather will be fine with winds northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.
Amman 18 / 30
Aqaba 37 / 24
Dorota 33 / 15
Jordan Valley 36 / 23

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 31, Aqaba 38 Humidity readings: Amman 25 per cent, Aqaba 30 per cent.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Youssef Samroun 615648
Dr. Iqam Al Amar 890504
Dr. Farouq Nur 766980
Dr. Bahjat Badr 84926
Firas pharmacy 661912
Fordows pharmacy 778336
Al Asoma pharmacy 637055
Niswakh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yasoub pharmacy 644945
Simicani pharmacy 637660
Najrouj pharmacy 623672
Najib pharmacy 847832

DRBID:
Dr. Ahmad Oanu (—)
Alquds pharmacy (—)

ZARQA:
Dr. Khalil Abu Hussain 985000
Khalifah pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate
Rescue 630741
Civil Defence Emergency 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 986390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 661646
Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information 121
(directory assistance) 010230
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone
Repairs 623101
Abdullah Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 723111
Radio Jordan 724111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 04-57200

Queen Alia Int. Airport 06-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hassan Medical Centre 813613/32
Khalil Maternity, J. Amn. 642281/6
Ashik Maternity, J. Amn. 62441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642292
Mafkas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmicieni 664171/4
Shmicieni Hospital 669121
University Hospital 843045
Al-Musharraf Hospital 667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali 66127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 661646/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 77101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 77511/26
Army, Marfa 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)902540
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)96732
Al-Hilmi Modern Hospital (09)99090
BLDID:
Prince Basma Hospital (02)25555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)27775
Ibn Al-Nafes Hospital (02)27100
AQABA:
Princess Naya Hospital (03)31411

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)5320-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:30 Sanaa (RJ)
06:30 Damascus (RJ)
06:30 Jeddah (RJ)
06:30 Riyadh (RJ)
06:30 Cairo, Aqaba (RJ)
06:30 Doha, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
06:30 New Delhi (RJ)
06:30 Tunis (RJ)
06:30 Beirut (RJ)
06:30 Cairo (RJ)
06:30 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
06:30 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
06:30 Bahrain (RJ)
06:30 Moscow (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:45 Sanaa (YI)
06:30 Aden (YI)
11:15 Kharoum (SD)
12:30 Abu Dhabi, Doha (GF)
15:40 Istanbul (TK)
17:00 Sanaa (YI)
18:15 Cairo (MS)
20:35 Dubai (EM)
21:45 Vienna, Larnaca (OS)
01:45 Dubai (KL)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

12:00 Beirut (RJ)
12:30 Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)
13:15 London (RJ)
13:25 Frankfurt (RJ)
13:45 Cairo (RJ)
14:30 Moscow (RJ)
14:30 Bahrain (RJ)
14:30 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
15:30 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
21:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
21:45 Damascus (RJ)
00:00 Montreal (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

07:45 Sanaa (YI)
08:15 Beirut (MS)
09:15 Beirut (RJ)
10:30 Aden (SD)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fmk per kg

Apple 650/450
Banana 600
Banana (Mukammal) 620
Beans 700 / 580
Cabbage 240 / 180
Carrot 300/250
Cauliflower 280 / 220
Cucumbers (large) 180 / 120
Cucumbers (small) 220

Abdul Rahim Omar dies at 64

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Prominent writer and poet Abdul Rahim Omar died Sunday after undergoing critical cardiac surgery in London.

Renowned for his daily column 'I say a word' in Al Ra'i Arabic daily, Mr. Omar was recognised for his consistent political stands and his poetic talent, having authored two books of poetry.

Mr. Omar (64) was considered by his friends and readers as a "great man and a real poet." He served Jordan in several senior governmental posts including director general of Press and Publications Department, director of Jordan Broadcasting Corporation, founder and president of the Jordanian Writers Association, and as a director of the Culture and Art Department at the Ministry of Information.

Mr. Omar was active in cultural activities, having participated in many national and international festivals.

He was a member of the National Charter Committee and a founding member of the Centre for Freedom, Democracy and Human Rights Studies.

The father of eight and grandfather of 16, Abdul Rahim Omar was born in Jayous village near Tulkarem in the occupied West Bank on Aug. 14, 1929. He is described by his children as a compassionate father and teacher who vigorously sought to educate



Abdul Rahim Omar

them.

Mr. Omar suffered from diabetes and cardiac problems since 1984. His condition was aggravated in the past few years by ophthalmic problems.

The writer left recently for London for routine check-ups and eye surgery. During his stay in London, he suffered

complications which necessitated an immediate heart surgery. He died 24 hours later.

Abdul Rahim Omar was awarded the Independence Medal of the First Order as well as several other medals from the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Jordan's first army chief dies at 98

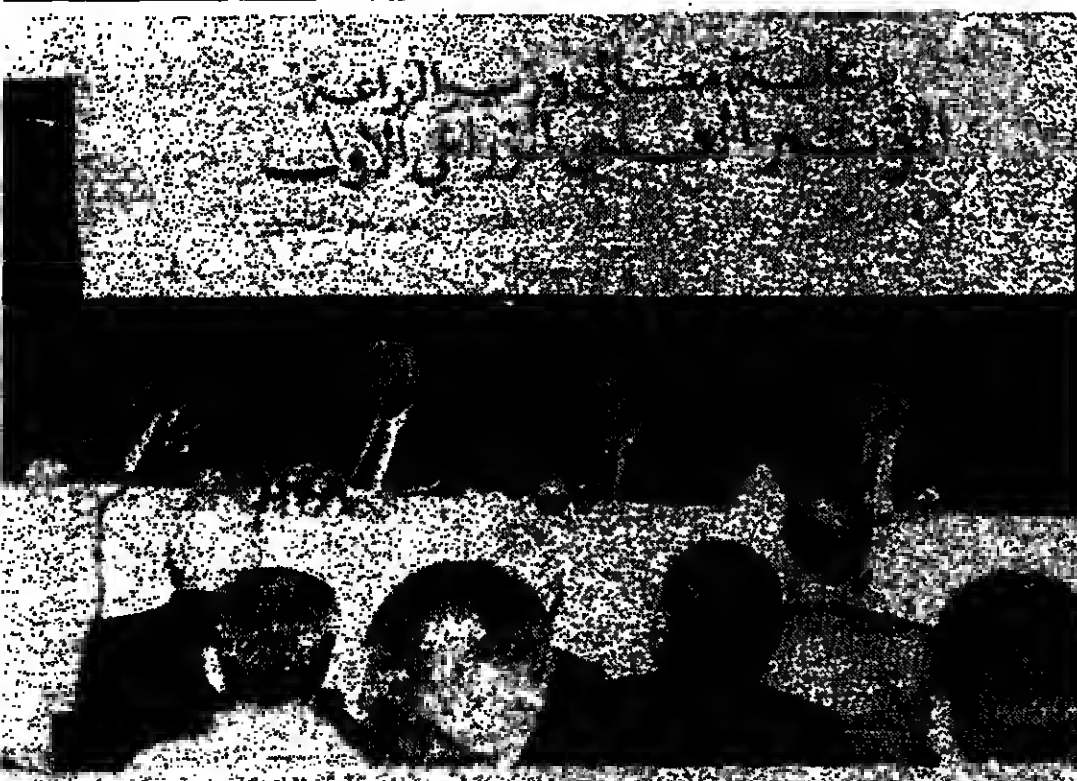
AMMAN (J.T.) — Retired Major General Radi Hassan Innab died Sunday at the age of 98. Maj. Gen. Innab was the first Chief of Staff of the Jordanian Armed Forces following the Arabisation of the army's leadership in 1956.

He was born in Nabulus in 1895 and joined the ranks of the Great Arab Revolt forces in 1921.

Maj. Gen. Innab held various posts in the Public Security Department and Armed Forces.



Radi Hassan Innab



Minister of Agriculture Marwan Kamal (second from left) Sunday addresses the opening session of the first Jordanian Scientific Agricultural Conference

Government applies modern technology to increase food production — minister

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Agriculture Marwan Kamal Sunday said the government was applying modern technology in order to increase food production, adding that this was the only means of ensuring more food for the increasing needs of the country.

Addressing the opening of the first Jordanian Scientific Agricultural Conference, held at the University of Jordan, Dr. Kamal said that not only can modern technology increase food, but it can also provide high quality output if production is backed by a continued process of scientific research and the availability of necessary inputs for the farmers. He said the Ministry of Agriculture has implemented development plans and conducted agricultural research projects and training programmes for Jordanian personnel involved in agricultural extension services designed to increase output.

Dr. Kamal reviewed the ministry's efforts to expand cultivated lands for the production of high demand vegetables, to develop the production of fruit and adopt plasticulture and drip irrigation methods with efficient use of pesticides.

Bassam Snobar, dean of the University of Jordan's Faculty of Agriculture, told the meeting that the faculty's training and research programmes benefitted 3,500 agricultural engineers, adding that training continues in order to

improve the quality of products. The two-day conference will review 36 working papers dealing with farming, animal wealth, irrigation and soil, agricultural economics, extension services and food processing among other topics.

On the sidelines of the conference, the university organised an agricultural exhibit which was opened by University President Fawzi Gharaibeh.

The exhibit displays books and other publications on agricultural research, as well as guidelines for farmers and other materials.

The meeting was organised in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Jordan Agricultural Engineers Association.

Chile, Jordan to agree on potash exports

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and Chile are working on an agreement for the export of Jordanian potash to Chilean markets, according to Rodrigo Diaz Albonico, the under secretary of the Chilean Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Mr. Albonico, who started a three-day visit to Jordan Saturday, was speaking Sunday following his meeting with Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali with whom he reviewed Jordanian-Chilean cooperation, particularly in the economic and trade arenas.

The Chilean envoy explained that Santiago and Amman are already bound by an agreement for mutual cooperation in cultural and technical fields.

Discussion with the prime minister also covered regional issues and international affairs, including the Middle East peace process, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Mr. Albonico said that he hoped that His Majesty King Hussein would respond favourably to an invitation extended by President Patricio Aylwin last year to visit Chile, which has maintained strong ties with Jordan for more than 40 years.

Referring to the Arab-Israeli peace talks, Mr. Albonico said Chile strongly supports the peace process on the basis of U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 and also supports the Palestinian-Israeli move towards creating autonomy rule for the Palestinians as an effective step in bringing peace to the region.

He said his visit, which is part of a tour that will also take him to Syria, Egypt, Lebanon, Tunisia and Greece is aimed at further bolstering Chilean-Jordanian ties in all fields.

Mr. Albonico earlier met with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Sataan Al Hassan and reviewed developments in Chilean-Jordanian relations and the Middle East peace process.

He reiterated his country's support for the implementation of U.N. resolutions concerning the Palestine question and said Chile looked forward to further cementing its ties with countries of the region.

At another meeting, with the foreign ministry's Secretary General Hussein Hammami, Mr.



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Sunday meets with visiting Under Secretary of the Chilean Foreign Ministry Rodrigo Diaz Albonico (centre) and Chilean Ambassador to Jordan Nelson Hadad Heresi (Petra photo)

Albonico reviewed regional and international issues of common concern to Jordan and Chile. Chile's Ambassador to Jordan Nelson Hadad Heresi, who attended the meetings, said the

envoy was carrying a personal message from President Aylwin to King Hussein renewing an invitation for the King and Her Majesty Queen Noor to visit Chile.

He said Mr. Albonico was hoping to strengthen the ties of friendship, trade and cooperation between the two countries and increase relations at the political, cultural and economic levels.



Street vendors in downtown Amman may soon have areas officially designated as open markets where they will be able to sell their merchandise (File photo)

Amman to allocate space for open markets

AMMAN (Petra) — The Amman Municipality is preparing new locations for open markets where street vendors will be able to sell their merchandise.

Speaking after a tour of the central downtown business area of Amman, Mayor Mamduh Al Abbadi said the measure is aimed at protecting the interests of the store owners in the downtown area and providing a way for street vendors to earn a living.

Store owners and merchants complained to the mayor during his tour about the problems created by the presence of street vendors.

The mayor said the municipality will also re-examine its decision concerning kiosks because some of their owners have been abusing trade facilities offered them by the municipality.

The municipality is studying

the prospect of developing the entire central region of Amman to create a tourist and investment attraction centre out of this area, said Dr. Abbadi.

The mayor toured several areas and talked to citizens and business owners. Later, he held a meeting with an invited group of merchants at the municipality to discuss questions related to the development of the downtown areas.

One of the questions discussed was the asphaltting of streets, a process which the merchants claimed raises the street level causing rain water to flow into the ground floor stores of the city.

Other issues discussed included the prospect of assigning certain streets for pedestrians only and the building of sanitary services in the downtown areas.

Arab League council passes measures to enhance Arab economic cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — The Arab League Social and Economic Council, which met in Egypt last week, passed a set of resolutions and recommendations calling, among other things, for Arab states to implement economic measures designed to further enhance economic and financial cooperation among them and open the way for Arab economic integration, according to Minister of Industry and Trade Bassam Al Saket who attended the meetings in Cairo.

Speaking upon his return to Amman Sunday, the minister said the council urged the Arab governments to introduce measures aimed at improving the economic investments of Arab capital, simplifying procedures concerning investments by the private sector of Arab countries and facilitating investments in in-



Bassam Al Saket

dustrial, agricultural and services sectors. The council, which met at the ministerial and experts level, decided to set up an "Arab ministers of electricity council" as well as a special committee to classify cargo vessels, said Dr.

Saket. In addition, the minister said the council endorsed decision taken by council committees or organising transit travel and simplifying formalities at Arab borders.

Two other decisions passed at the Cairo meeting included the establishment of an Arab federation of military sports and the convening of a meeting of law survey specialists in Arab states to coordinate Arab stands in this field, said Dr. Saket.

While in Cairo, the minister attended an extraordinary session by the Council of Arab Economists to discuss means of promoting the council's activities.

Dr. Saket was accompanied to the meeting by Asem Hindawi, director of economic cooperation at the ministry of industry and trade.

Election advertisements warning reiterated

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Department of Press and Publications at the Ministry of Information Sunday circulated a memorandum to local newspapers, reminding them to abide by the provision of the 1986 election law which prohibits the publication of any advertisement in any form for any candidate running for the Nov. 8 parliamentary elections.

Last month the department sent a circular to the press that

any violation of article 60 of the election regulation is punishable by law.

The circular said that the law made it clear that no advertisement should appear in the press announcing the nomination of a candidate by a certain tribe or the opening of an office for the candidate or even a statement by a clan voicing support for candidates.

According to the law and a statement by the Ministry of Interior on August 7, cam-

paigning for the parliamentary elections will start on Oct. 12 and will continue until Nov. 7, the day preceding the elections.

The department circular and the reminder issued Sunday stipulate that notices directly or indirectly referring to candidates are considered as part of a campaign for their election and are subsequently considered a violation of the 1986 Election Law.

Jordan to switch to winter time Oct. 1

Jordan (Petra) — Winter hours in Jordan begin on Friday Oct. 1, 1993, according to an official communique issued by prime minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Sunday. The statement said that winter time will begin at midnight on Thursday Sept. 30, 1993 when clocks will be turned back one hour. With the time change Jordan will be two hours ahead of Greenwich Meantime (GMT).



ARAB BANK
Announces the opening of
a new office at
Industrial Area
(Wadi Seer)

Banking services started on
Saturday 11 September 1993

ARAB BANK
Industrial Area Office / Wadi Seer
P.O.Box 140025 Wadi Seer
Tel: 810311, Fax: 823671

ARAB BANK
GENERAL MANAGEMENT
SHMEISANI - AMMAN
P.O. BOX 950544-5, TELEPHONE: 660115, 660131
TELEX: 23091 ARABNK JO, FAX: 606793

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Art exhibition by Iraqi artist Noori Al Rawi at Baladna Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition by artists Mohammad Al Ameri and Ghassan Abu-Laban at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by Muntaher Al Ma'ani at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by Egyptian artist H. Bkhar at the Balqa' Art Gallery in Fubels.
- ★ Paintings exhibition by Amor Aouens and Salam Kanaan at the Alia Art Gallery.
- ★ Permanent exhibition and "Chair" Exhibition at Darat Al Fusan of the Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation in Jabal Lawelbdeh (10 a.m.-7 p.m. except Fridays).
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Jordanian artist Bishara Najjar at Esbellea Art Gallery, Amra Shopping Centre.

BUILDING FOR RENT

Consists of 3 storeys. The ground and first floors consist of 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 salons, dining room, kitchen, three verandas with an area of 290 square metres each. The second floor consists of two flats each with an area of 145 square metres and each consists of 2 bedrooms, hall and salon, kitchen and bathroom. The building is surrounded by a spacious garden. Preferably to be let as a whole to diplomatic mission. Location: Um Uthaina, Ha'el Street, behind Amra Hotel. Call tel.: 837442

Jordan Times

An independent Arab-political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.
Established 1975
مؤسسة الصحافة الأردنية

Chairman of the Board of Directors:

MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:

MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:

GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Beyond the handshake

THE SIGNING ceremony at the White House of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)-Israel interim self-rule agreement for the Palestinians, on what has come to be known as Super Monday, is a milestone in the history of the Middle East. "Its significance goes beyond that of the Camp David accords struck between Egypt and Israel in 1979 because this time the principal antagonists in the region's primary conflict will put their seal of approval on an agreement that may set the stage for either the permanent solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict or its flare-up into new ominous proportions.

The Palestinian question has always been the core issue in the Middle East crisis. This dimension of the area's main conflict has been at the centre of all the other regional problems and has contributed to their explosions in one way or another. No wonder then that euphoria, mixed with fears and anxieties, will dominate today's signing ceremony of the Oslo accord.

Starting with this momentous Monday, the shape of the Middle East could irrevocably change. The cards of the regions' players would be so dramatically reshuffled, leaving them with more questions than answers.

There are already danger signals emanating from both the Israeli and Palestinian sides. Saturday saw the beginning of an armed clash between Palestinians in the West Bank who view the agreement in a different light. The intensity of the civil strife between the various Palestinian factions might escalate into dangerous proportions that could wreak havoc with the future of the embryonic Palestinian self-rule. His Majesty King Hussein highlighted this danger when he called in a television interview Saturday on all Palestinians to close their ranks and face the challenge in unity and determination.

Some Palestinians will no doubt find formidable difficulties in living with the new reality that has dawned upon them. But so would some Israelis, who might express their anger with the Rabin government's "betrayal" of the Zionist dreams not only with words but also with extremist actions. Their anger might be directed at Israeli supporters of the accords as well as Palestinians in the occupied territories.

The biggest problem with the deal that will be signed today might well be that the houses of both the Israelis and the Palestinians are divided. There is always a threat to the continuity of the peace process if the Likud Party regains power in the future or if a new radical Palestinian leadership assumes power. However, what could tip the balance in favour or against the Palestinian-Israeli peace treaty is intervention by all peace-loving nations on behalf of the new process that is just starting to take shape. The Arab World needs to rally behind the Palestinians in full force, so as to strengthen their bargaining position from now on and to help them put their house in order right from the start. The international community, especially countries that have abundant economic resources, have to come into the picture with much needed aid and political support to ensure success of the process. But, above all, the Palestinians and the Israelis themselves, as represented by their leaders, have to be able to show the whole world that their commitment to peace will not end with an historic handshake in Washington today. The handshake will be of the utmost symbolic importance, but it is what follows that will determine the future for all of us in this part of the world.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i Arabic daily Sunday described the document signed by the PLO, recognising Israel, as the verdict of a court that tried the victim (The Palestinian people) forcing it to apologise for its past. It was as if the Palestinians were apologising for demanding their rights and fighting for their freedom, said Mahmoud Rimawi. In the document, the PLO renounced terrorism and acts of violence, but what about the Israelis and the Jewish settlers who are armed to the teeth, asked the writer. The PLO has recognised Israel's right to exist, but what about the 1967 border line and the Palestinian rights to self-determination and a state of their own on Palestinian soil? he asked. Israel has to date defined no boundaries for the Jewish nation and has therefore left the door open for future ambitious expansions, added the writer. According to the PLO-Israeli deal, the settlements will remain on Arab soil, settlers will remain and in full control of their settlements while the Israeli armed forces will remain in control of the overall security, said the writer. The writer said that the deal should have included compromises in both sides since it is Israel and the Palestinians who will either benefit from the agreement to live in peace and security or go to war at any time in the future. He said that the whole PLO-Israeli deal leaves only a narrow path for the Palestinians to enter into the next stage of struggling for their full rights and statehood.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour said that the mosque sermons on Fridays should be directed solely towards religious affairs and not towards politics. Mohammad Subeih said it is the right of each person to support or oppose the Gaza-Jericho first deal, between the PLO and Israel, but it is not the right of the mosque preacher to attack the agreement especially at a time when he is ignorant of details. I do not call for the preacher to present an eloquent speech reflecting his command of the Arabic language, nor should he serve as an organ in an election campaign, said the writer. It is true that people's feelings are affected by the political events in the region, and it is also true that some people are frustrated by and their hearts are filled with despair about a host of events, but the preacher must opt for reason as he is not in a position to bring about change in a political decision that is not his own, continued the writer. It does not become a preacher to accuse others of being traitors and enemy's agents in front of worshippers and it is rather more important for the preacher to address the worshippers in matters of their immediate concern and daily life, he said. The writer said that since every one of us has a responsibility to shoulder, it is more logical for the preachers to give the people time to think and analyse the situation for themselves. He said that the main priority now is to enhance national unity.

Weekly Political Pulse

Arab-Israeli talks on an irreversible course

The new developments that are sweeping the entire Middle East in the wake of the Oslo Israeli-PLO accord are a principal feature of the new order. No wonder the whole comity of nations moved expeditiously not only to endorse it but also to fund it. In many ways, the new and rejuvenated peace process resembles a locomotive that is effectively unstoppable. Those forces that stand in its way may end up being dismantled or destroyed altogether.

That does not mean that the road to Jerusalem would be strewn with roses. Effective obstacles will be in the way. It is a fact that the Israelis and the Palestinians, the principal parties in the rekindled peace process, are deeply divided. No matter how relevant the global support to the accord is the support of the peoples directly affected by it remains critical. The world will have to closely watch the developments on both fronts to monitor the direction of the respective masses. If there is a growing consensus for peace, then the foundation of the recent agreement will be further cemented.

From the look of things, the course of peace between Israel and its Arab neighbours appears to be irreversible, notwithstanding the stiff opposition. The proponents of the deal could readily point out that there is simply no viable alternative for the Palestinians, at least in the short-or intermediate-runs. Status quo even while the Palestinian uprising goes on raging cannot be counted on to alone change effectively the equation in the area against the backdrop of the new international order and the Arab realities.

But such arguments in favour of the newly discovered peace between Israel and the Palestinians require a continuous

dialogue with the rejectionists. No one would want to see a bloodbath in the West Bank or a civil war in Israel. Such dark developments could wreck everything constructed in the way to peace and deprive the peoples of the sweet fruits of their efforts to have peace reign supreme in their midst.

It would be a cardinal mistake to dismiss the counterforces to the Norwegian-brokered accord as marginal or inconsequential. Greater efforts need to be exerted to show respect and appreciation for the counterforces. Since the newly-arrived deal is based on a bitter-sweet compromise, there are some elements of truth and justification on both sides of the fence.

In the final analysis, what could break the back of either school of thought are the developments on the Jordanian and Syrian tracks. Should there be a breakthrough, as expected on both fronts, the momentum for peace in the region would be boosted. Should there be a stalemate, however, on both or even one of the fronts, the regional consensus for peaceful co-existence with Israel could suffer a deadly blow.

There are conflicting signals on the fate of the Jordanian and Syrian tracks. Amman declared a few months ago that it had virtually sealed an agreement with Israel but decided to withhold signature pending the registration of meaningful progress on the Palestinian front. Recently Jordanian officials denied that there is an agreement with Israel on agenda; nothing more and nothing less. Agreement on an agenda, it was pointed out, is not a prescription to an accord. "The agenda has been misrepresented as an accord," His Majesty was quoted as saying last week. "In

fact," the King continued, "it is an agenda of all the topics that have to be discussed in great depth." This means in effect that there is no agreement whatsoever between Israel and Jordan in spite of earlier declarations by even high officials that all is set for signature between the two parties.

Even if all that Jordan has agreed to with Israel is a list of subjects to be negotiated, this is no small feat. There are miles and miles that separate a consent to a mutually agreed upon agenda and agreement on its items. It seems that what the Jordanian-Israeli teams have achieved over the last months is very little if all that they are about to agree to is a listing of the subjects to be discussed and negotiated. Nearly two years have passed since the Madrid conference was launched and much more was expected to have been concluded. Now it seems that not much had really been done or achieved.

The Syrian side is also anything but upbeat about its negotiating process with Israel. Every time there were rumours that Damascus and Tel Aviv were on the verge of a breakthrough, denials from both sides quickly refuted it. In fact, if there are no real advancements on the Syrian and Jordanian fronts, the prospects for the PLO-Israeli deal would diminish simply because lack of progress on these two tracks could effectively pull the rug from under the feet of the Palestinian-Israeli track.

The major players therefore need to be careful lest they draw too hasty comfort from the breakthrough on the Palestinian front without matching that momentous achievement with equal progress on the other fronts. Otherwise, the proponents of the Oslo deal would be further undermined.

LETTERS

A wholesome peace

To the Editor:

THE DECLARATION of principles on interim self-government arrangements was not solely tailored to suit Israeli perceptions of self-interest. These principles were labouriously engineered to accommodate Israel's empirical needs of self-interest on the basis that such needs are part and parcel of the mutuality of interests with the Palestinians. However, this does not mean that the Israelis are being philanthropic about these arrangements — far from it!

Ever mindful of the sanctity of their demands, a number of which remain so far non-negotiable, the Israelis elected to coexist with the Palestinians by juxtaposing their modus vivendi against that of an interim modus operandi of five years. The "declaration of principles," per se seems to be, in form and substance, an extension of the Camp David accords, rather than an application of U.N. resolutions, namely 242 and 338.

Evidently, both the Palestinians and the Israelis have come to realise that in this process of negotiation for a comprehensive peace, each can only achieve what they negotiate for, and not what they consider themselves entitled to. Having accepted this fact as common ground for further negotiations, the Israelis and Palestinians have agreed to distance the negotiations from the immediacy of U.N. resolutions. As a result, they managed to agree on the substantive modalities of the "declaration of principles."

When all is said and done, the Palestinians, after their sojourn of five years in the purgatory of expectations, will again have a state of their own. Throughout this period, it remains incumbent on Israel to see to it that the realisation of a viable and peaceful Palestine is unencumbered. For peace is whole for Israel and Palestine, and wholesome for both.

Ludwig W. Tamari,
Potomac, Maryland,
U.S.A.

First impressions last longer

To the Editor:

After a thirteen-year lapse, I recently returned to Jordan accompanied by my wife, for whom the visit was the first in the Middle East. Three weeks or so later we had had a truly wonderful experience, which, unfortunately, was marred by two incidents.

The first occurred on arrival in Aqaba. After driving from Petra, passing by Wadi Rum, we arrived at our hotel (not the government-owned one) on the beach. It was a hotel I remembered fondly from my last visit to Jordan.

What a disappointment! The room was in poor condition; it was impossible to talk over the noise from the air conditioner; the bathroom lights failed to work and the room smelt of stale air.

I was soon to discover that this poor impression of Aqaba as a holiday resort reflected not only in the quality of the hotel, but also in the poorly monitored beaches, both private and municipal.

We moved to a newer hotel, set back from the beach. It was excellent, but I did wonder if it would be of the same standard in a decade or so. It would appear that the Aqaba hoteliers have failed to observe a fundamental rule of business, which is reinvestment. This does not necessarily mean buying more land for development, thereby scarring the landscape further, but investing in order to maintain the existing facilities to a high standard.

The Aqaba coastline is relatively small and is easily overused. Therefore, for ecological and health reasons, the beaches alone need to be kept clear, with paper, rubbish and cleaning facilities available.

"The get rich quickly" and the high profit policy only work in the short term because the resort becomes overused and abused and in the long term the environment is destroyed.

And this leads me to the second thing that marred my stay in Aqaba. I was saddened to find that while skin-diving, the visibility was worse than around some of the polluted areas of the British coast.

Consumer rubbish is all over the seabed close to the shore, the corals are dying and when we left the water, my wife and I discovered with horror that our bodies were covered in foul, sewage smelling water.

The health implications are obvious, and I was left wondering whether this was complacency or oversight on the part of the planners.

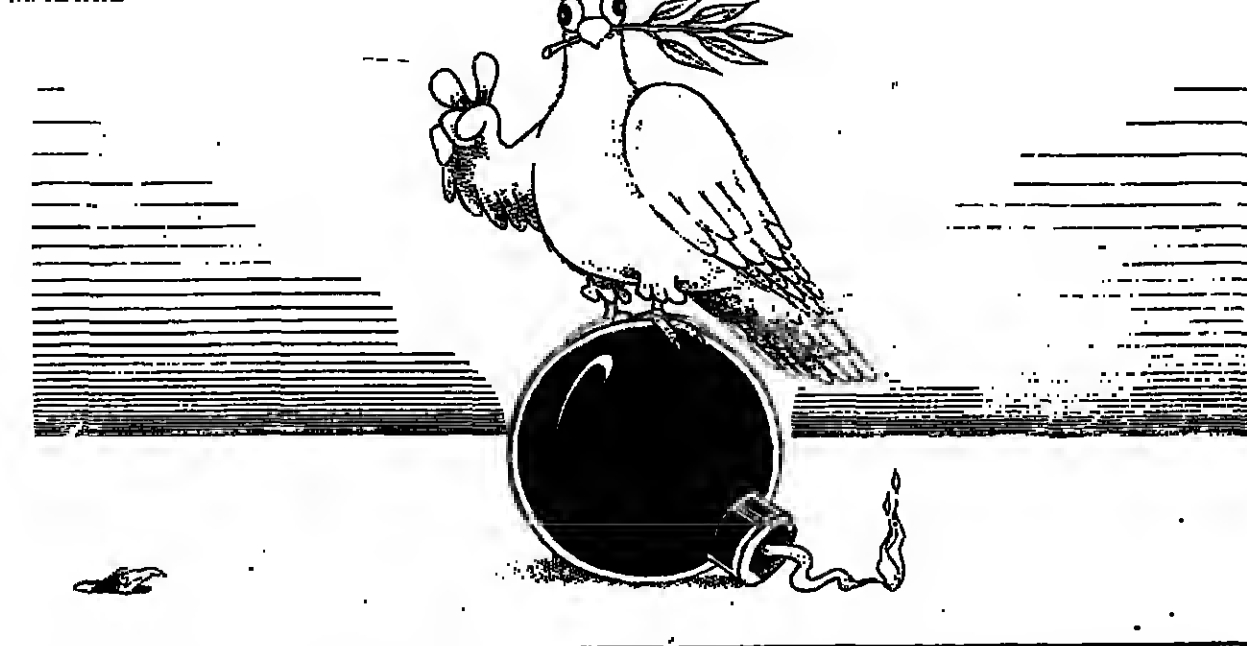
This is the Jordanian children's inheritance. One should not be selfish, but dispose of the household and industrial waste thoughtfully.

Jordan can learn from the mistakes the rest of the world has made by polluting the seas. The Kingdom's small coastline must be protected by us all if present and future generations wish to enjoy it to the full whilst being able to guarantee a healthy source of income for the tourist industry.

No matter how well tourism is promoted, the first impressions gained by the visitor, of the country's facilities, resorts and amenities, are the lasting ones and will be the fundamental key to success.

(Maj.) James Hama,
British Army Air Corps,
Middle Walpole,
England.

M. KAHIL



Israel and the Palestinians see a way to coexist

By Thomas L. Friedman

WASHINGTON — ON Nov. 2, 1917, the British foreign secretary, Arthur Balfour, issued a declaration in London stating that His Majesty's Government was ready to support the creation of a national home for the Jewish people in Palestine. The Zionist movement took that one paragraph promise, and from it, step by step, erected the state of Israel.

Nearly 76 years later, on Aug. 30, 1993, the Israeli government approved an agreement reached in secret with the Palestine Liberation Organisation sanctioning the creation of an autonomous Palestinian homeland in the Gaza Strip and Jericho. This is nothing less than the Israeli Balfour Declaration for the Palestinians, and if they build on it as the Zionists did, there is every chance it will lead to their own state.

This remarkable autonomy plan was worked out by Israeli and PLO officials during 17 secret meetings in Norway and other European sites, and initiated on Aug. 20. Under its detailed provisions, the Israeli army would first withdraw from the Gaza Strip and Jericho, where Palestinians would then start running their own affairs, and even have their own lightly armed police force. Elsewhere in the West Bank, Palestinians would begin assuming control over many aspects of daily life, including taxes, health care, education, tourism, trade and agriculture. Elections for a ruling Palestinian council would be held within nine months of the signing of the agreement.

If implemented, this plan, coupled with the declarations of mutual recognition that Israel and the PLO are now trying to work out, constitutes the most fundamental change in Arab-Israeli politics since the conflict began — more sweeping even than Anwar Sadat's dramatic visit to Jerusalem in 1977.

For almost 100 years the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has proven insoluble because the two sides would not recognise the other as legitimate enemies. Israel dismissed the Palestinians as either terrorists or individuals, not a nation with legitimate claims on historic Palestine; the Palestinians dismissed the Israelis as either "colonisers" or members of a religious community, not a nation with rights in the land of Israel.

If there is a reason to be optimistic now, it is not because the two sides have agreed on what the solution is — that will

take a lot more time. It is because after all these years they seem to be finally agreeing on what the problem is. It is not a question of who is going to own the whole pie, but what size each side's slice should be.

It is still very possible that Israelis and Palestinians will not be able to answer that question with mutual satisfaction, but the big breakthrough is that both are finally asking the right question. They are finally recognising each other as legitimate enemies that have to be reconciled — not ignored, demonised or defeated.

"I am ready for painful compromises," said Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin of Israel. "Peace is not made with friends. Peace is made with enemies, some of whom — and I won't name names — I loathe very much."

The stakes here are enormous, because the intercommunal conflict between Israelis and Palestinians has always been at the core of both the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Jewish-Muslim fun-

the number of people ready to assume the rigors of a fundamentalist lifestyle falls exponentially.

But it is precisely because this tentative peace accord has so much potential to do good that its failure, or collapse, has such potential to wreak havoc. For three decades, the notion of a direct Israel-PLO dialogue has always been viewed as the last card. Well, now it's being played, and if it does not provide the key to unlock this conflict, the implications will be devastating, because the diplomats have nothing else up their sleeves.

Hardliners on both sides understand fully the implications of this tentative agreement, and that is why they are so agitated. It will almost certainly lead to the creation of a Palestinian affirmation of the rights of the Jewish people to a homeland in Israel. The intriguing question is whether the leaders who initiated this deal understand not only its rights, but its responsibilities.

"But it is precisely because this tentative peace accord has so much potential to do good that its failure, or collapse, has such potential to wreak havoc. For three decades, the notion of a direct Israel-PLO dialogue has always been viewed as the last card. Well, now it's being played, and if it does not provide the key to unlock this conflict, the implications will be devastating, because the diplomats have nothing else up their sleeves."

damentalist struggle. That core Israeli-Palestinian conflict was so potent because it was about home. Who gets to feel at home and who doesn't. Who gets to take their shoes off and relax and who doesn't. When do you really get enraged? When you have a neighbour who never lets you feel at home. For 100 years, through violence and delegitimisation, Israelis and Palestinians have made sure that the other was never allowed to really feel at home in Israel.

If the core conflict can begin to be resolved, it takes a lot of the steam out of the regional conflict. There is an Arabic proverb that says: "So long as the judge is happy." That is: if it is good for you, it's good for me. And if the deal proves good enough for the Palestinians, who are the Israelis, or the Libyans or the fundamentalists to decry it? Decry it they will, but their voices will never resonate as before. Fundamentalists feed off discontent, and if the sources of discontent can at least begin to be healed,

in Washington, the American-Israeli Public Affairs Committee, will soon be using its powerful muscles to lobby Congress for aid to both Israel and the nascent Palestinian state, because Israel cannot afford a Somalia on its doorstep?

Speaking of the American role in producing this deal, it was modest. That is as it should be (although President Clinton has shown striking indifference to the apparent breakthrough, doing nothing to publicly encourage the parties). The United States was always at best a midwife. There was never going to be an Israeli-Palestinian accord until the parties themselves were ready to take the fundamental steps on their own for their own reasons. Even if they have done the right thing for the wrong reasons.

Mr. Arafat to save his political career when his coffers were empty and his enemies gathered at the door and Mr. Rabin to save his government from irrelevancy and to get rid of the Gaza heli-hole — the end results could be positive, and they appear to be spurring Jordan, Syria and Lebanon to join in.

Sending the bill

It is a reminder, though, of the limits of the American role in the post-cold war world, where the fragmentation of power and the breakup of the two great ideological camps has left regional players feeling very much on their own — except in one regard: they will send us the bill.

Details, details. When Mr. Peres went to see Secretary of State Warren Christopher and the American diplomat began quizzing him on the details of the accord, Mr. Peres stopped at one point and quoted Winston Churchill, saying: "You don't leap over a chasm in two steps." If you start thinking about all the details you are paralysed. And that is the essence of what has happened — a giant leap into a future whose contours can only be glimpsed. That leap itself will change the landscape, create new realities, new expectations, new possibilities and new problems. But much of the old landscape, with settlers who won't be budged, refugees who won't be able to go home and fundamentalists who may never reconcile, will remain. The question is whether the vision of a common future that motivated a tiny group of Israeli and Palestinian leaders to strike this deal will be able to transcend and eventually level the mountain of mistrust that most of their peoples still share — The New York Times.

Protecting Arafat

Do Israel's leaders fully grasp that they are planting the seeds of a legitimate Palestinian state on their borders — that their Mossad intelligence service will henceforth have responsibility for protecting Mr. Arafat, not stalking him, and that the pro-Israel lobby

PLO-Israeli agreement — half empty or half full?

By Jonathan Wright
Reuters

TUNIS — Like pessimists arguing about a glass of water, opponents of Mr. Arafat's peace agreement with Israel complain that it's half-empty. Optimistic supporters welcome what it does contain and say there may be more to come.

On both sides of the debate Palestinians share much the same aims — an independent state including the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem. Their differences begin when they start to talk about the nature of the Israeli state, the balance of power between the two sides and the dynamics of a negotiating process which may lead to a permanent solution.

Opponents deeply suspicious of Israel's intentions, expect traps in every corner. They see a monolithic Israeli state, with overwhelming military superiority, taking advantage of the Palestinians' weakness to drag them into a form of voluntary servitude.

By signing treaties with its Arab neighbours, Israel would simultaneously break out of the long Arab siege — the main card with which the Arabs could have bargained, they say.

"Mutual recognition will lead to Israeli domination of the whole region. We will continue our struggle," said Fathi Shukaki of the movement Islamic Jihad in Palestine.

"The agreement will put us in a position of complete economic dependence on Israel... and we are destined to be the bridge

across which Israel reaches the Arab World?" Abdullah Hourani asked a meeting of the PLO Executive Committee.

But Mr. Arafat's supporters see the relationship as much more equal. The PLO may have had to come to terms with Israel because its back was up against the wall, but Israel also had compelling reasons to make peace, they say.

"In abstract terms the PLO has obviously given a great deal," said PLO official Jamil Hilal. "But we are gambling that the dynamics of the situation will work in our favour."

Under the agreement Israel will make an early withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho.

The rest of the West Bank will have a lesser degree of self-rule while Israel and the PLO negotiate the final status of the territories and problems like refugees and East Jerusalem.

"The PLO had to take the risk of going into an agreement in which the outcome is not known. There's no commitment on a Palestinian state, on Jerusalem, on borders," said Hilal.

"But a Palestinian state is now a foregone conclusion. It's just a question of time and manoeuvring. The alternative for the Israelis is to say they do not want peace," he added.

Like the pessimists with their glass of water, the opponents say these omissions are the fatal flaw.

What they want is a watertight legal document that maps out the future of the Levant for the next decade and neatly matches the resolutions they have passed at

PLO meetings.

"The future of the refugees, sovereignty and the right of self-determination will only be discussed three years after the declaration (self-rule agreement). So we have three years of anxiety followed by two years of negotiations," said Shafiq Al Hoot, an opponent who has resigned from the PLO leadership.

"Self-rule in Gaza and Jericho can in no way form a beginning to establishing land," he added.

Faisal Al Hussein, coordinator of the Palestinian team negotiating openly with Israel in Washington, disagrees.

"We are saying the Gaza-Jericho agreement is the start and not the end," he told Palestinians in the occupied territories.

Abu Mazen, the PLO man at the centre of the secret contacts which forged the deal, says he believes the PLO has a hidden strength because the Israeli government realises its interests lie in cooperation with the Arabs, not confrontation.

"The military option has failed to wipe out the Palestinian resistance. The negotiations do not depend on the military balance but, for Israel, on its search for normal relations in the region," said Hassan Asfour, Abu Mazen's deputy.

The great unknown is the role of Muslim fundamentalists and radical nationalists who play in the occupied territories once the PLO moves in.

The fundamentalists, the second largest political force in the West Bank and Gaza, are a double-edged sword for the PLO.

By violent opposition they could turn self-rule into a national disaster for the Palestinians.

But Israel, having put all its eggs in the PLO basket, will have to keep the Palestinian population sweet by making it possible for the PLO government to show them real change.

"Improving economic conditions is a very important condition for guaranteeing the success of the agreement," said PLO Executive Committee member Yasser Abed Rabbo.

"People must see that the Palestinian authority does have real power, that it is not just a stooge of an Israeli military governor. Otherwise people will turn to Hamas (The main fundamentalist movement)," said Mr. Hilal.

"And Hamas will never come to terms with Israel," he added.

By Jim Hoagland

WASHINGTON — In the end, Shimon Peres and Yasser Arafat turned to each other because they had no place else to go. Their joint desperation leaves their joint draft political accord vulnerable to potshotting from all sides. But the agreement sets in motion an Israeli-Palestinian chain reaction that offers hope for an end to nearly 100 years of civil war in the Holy Land.

This is a moment to dwell on effects rather than causes. The words that Palestinians and Israelis have been speaking to each other in secret for months and in public for a week take on their own meaning and momentum now that they have been exposed. In this moment, two bitter adversaries are examining and adjusting core beliefs about human nature and its potential for change. They are not just trying out diplomatic formulas for tactical advantage.

Ending the war with the Palestinians would in a sense be the final act of the Holocaust, which gave rise to the modern state of Israel. The real and

understandable fears of the Jewish people of being history's victims cannot be stilled until the Arab world's political leaders and the Palestinian people have formally and substantively abandoned all ambitions of destroying the state of Israel.

Mr. Peres seems to have drawn Mr. Arafat towards that goal, without giving up anything essential to Israeli security. To get there, the Israeli foreign minister turned the Washington negotiating process upside down. That result probably does not disturb Mr. Peres, since the process was outside his control in any event.

Israel and the United States hoped that the negotiations would develop the West Bank Palestinians into "the real address," or alternative leadership, for Arab money and support now denied to Mr. Arafat's Palestine Liberation Organisation. But throughout 22 months of talk, the Palestinian delegation failed to establish any true autonomy from the PLO. The West Bankers repeatedly professed their inability and unwillingness to manage the leveraged takeover of the PLO that was envisioned.

This left an opening for Mr. Peres, who had been walled off from any significant role in the peace negotiations or Israeli diplomacy by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. Mr. Peres turned to secret contacts with the PLO in Oslo as an alternative to the Washington talks. He dragged Mr. Rabin, and the Clinton administration, along once he could show that Mr. Arafat was finally ready to accept the interim arrangements that had been on offer to the Palestinians since the 1979 Camp David peace treaty.

Drowning in a sea of financial and political turmoil caused by his disastrous support for Iraq's Saddam Hussein in the Gulf war, Mr. Arafat grasped at the lifeline in his direction by Mr. Peres. While he attempts to disguise it in his flamboyant rhetoric in Tunis, the PLO chairman accepted in Oslo that his organisation will play the role of enforcer of any potential Israeli-Palestinian peace on the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip.

"Gaza and Jericho first" means that the PLO must establish order by ending the intifada in Gaza and Jericho as a precondition for

further Israeli withdrawal. The PLO must also convert itself into a normal political party in these two areas while they remain under Israeli physical control. The PLO will not take control of Gaza and Jericho as a national liberation movement empowered morally and physically to create a state in its image.

Just as the "Gaza and Jericho first" plan represents an opportunity to end an Israeli nightmare rooted in the Holocaust and five Arab-Israeli wars, it brings an end to a Palestinian dream of reconstructing pre-1947 Palestine under PLO control. Even if PLO hardliners ultimately torpedo the accord, Mr. Arafat's tentative acceptance forces a sea change in Palestinian psychology and goals.

Mr. Peres rescued a drowning Arafat believing that the PLO chairman could be useful to him and to Israel in the changed environment that the end of the cold war has brought to the Middle East. This is the sea change for Israel, which has long worked to eradicate Palestinian political leadership to ensure that no deal could be made.

Mr. Peres explained to me his

vision of the new Middle East, in which Arabs and Israelis must cooperate against common threats ranging from political extremism to the creeping desertification of their lands, last February during a visit to Washington: "We saw in the Gulf war that missiles and non-conventional warheads make a national defence alone impossible. We must have a regional defence and a political approach" to the Arab-Israeli conflict. "We must reorganise everything and reexamine all roots... Maybe Arab dictators don't change, but they no longer have Russian support or the opportunities they once had."

This was about the same time that he was entering serious talks with the PLO in Oslo, about which, of course, he said not a word to me — nor, apparently, to his prime minister.

For once, Peres the visionary worked hand in glove with Peres the Machiavellian deal-maker. Whatever comes next, he has broken taboos that needed to be destroyed for an Israeli-Palestinian peace to have a chance — The Washington Post.

Mideast — the new momentum for change

One family's exile, hope and, now, disillusionment

By Donna Abu-Nasr
The Associated Press

SIDON, Lebanon — Inspired by a man he had never met, Munir Makdah left school at age 10 to fight for a land he had never seen.

In the next 23 years, this Palestinian refugee grew from child guerrilla to military commander of all the fighting men in Lebanon loyal to his boyhood idol, Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasser Arafat.

But the pride that came from serving Mr. Arafat turned to shock, then bitterness, when he learned Mr. Arafat was concluding a deal with the Israelis that calls for only limited self-rule over a small part of his beloved Palestine.

Two weeks ago, Mr. Makdah publicly called for Mr. Arafat's resignation. Since then, Mr. Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin have exchanged letters of recognition, and the PLO has renounced terrorism and acknowledged Israel's right to exist in peace and security.

"It seems that Abu Ammar has forgotten what he taught us," Mr. Makdah said, using Mr. Arafat's guerrilla name. "But although he has deviated from the true path, we will continue armed struggle as if no agreements have been made until all our lands are liberated."

The Palestinian-Israeli auton-

omy agreement calls for limited Palestinian self-rule in the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip and Jericho before the question of the rest of the West Bank and Jerusalem, all captured by Israel in 1967, is taken up.

The agreement has no provision for the old Palestinian-populated areas in Israel itself, like the Makdah family's mountain village of Ghabsiyyeh near Acre.

The deal has angered many of the 317,000 Palestinians in Lebanon's 13 refugee camps. Most belong to families that fled Palestine in 1948 at the outbreak of the first Arab-Israeli war, from which arose the modern Jewish state.

Arab leaders then said their armies would push the Israelis out of Palestine in 15 days. Instead, millions of Palestinians ended up in shantytown camps like Sidon's Ein Al Hilweh, where Mr. Makdah's grandfather, Khalil, his wife and eight children settled.

Khalil Makdah, then a 25-year-

old milkman, left Ghabsiyyeh with the possessions he cherished most: his Palestinian identity card, the key to his house, and documents issued by the British in the 1940s for Palestine that included tax receipts and deeds for his home.

So sure was the family of their imminent return that Hadiyyah Ward, Khalil Makdah's second wife whom he married in Lebanon — recalls her father, Mustafa, saying the seeds of Lebanese watermelons and tomatoes in jars to plant when they returned to Palestine.

Two years later, he threw the seeds away.

"Our parents thought they were going to Lebanon on a picnic," said Hadiyyah, a heavy-set woman with a shy smile, as she adjusted her blue scarf. "We thought we would be pampered and spoiled by our hosts. Instead, we got camps, tragedy and pain."

Khalil Makdah lost his house key and identity card. But the documents, yellowed and crumb-

ling, have survived 45 years.

Mr. Makdah, now 70, hides them in a small cabinet next to his bed. He keeps the key to the cabinet, wrapped in newspaper, in his pillow case.

"Every time a child is born, I calculate how much he will inherit," said Mr. Makdah, a tall, slight stooping man with white hair and 10 children and 109 grandchildren. Two of his children were killed and three wounded while fighting Lebanese militias in the 1980s.

"But after this treacherous agreement, I wonder whether anyone of my family will ever see our land in Palestine," he said. "I gave Yasser Arafat two martyrs, what did I get in return?"

The Makdahs heard from travellers that the family house in Ghabsiyyeh and their four shops in nearby Manshiyyeh were destroyed in the 1948 fighting. But the 45 olive trees and three hectares of land are intact. They're unsure who tends them now.

Munir Makdah, disillusioned commander of Mr. Arafat's Fatah guerrillas in Lebanon, refuses to consider the family property a "phantom inheritance."

"We will take it back, in 10, 50 or 100 years," the bearded 33-year-old said, sitting under an inscription of the Koran, at a Fatah office in Ein Al Hilweh.

His first mission as a boy fighter was learning to fire mortars across the Lebanese border at Israeli settlements. "We were fedayeen (men of sacrifice) then, fighting to regain all of Palestine," Mr. Makdah said, his brown eyes shining with pride.

"Palestine is my land. Whenever I slipped into Israel to carry out operations there, I found it hard to leave. I couldn't believe I was in Palestine," said Mr. Makdah.

He declined to give details of these operations, except to say that he once reached Nahariya, a coastal town 9 kms south of the Lebanese border.

Mr. Makdah said he has already set his five children, aged 1 to 9, on the path he has followed.

"I give them hand grenades and revolvers to play with so they will get attached to the revolution," he said. "They love it."

Economic disparity is risky

(Continued from page 1)

Which Israel are we recognising? Is it Israel plus the territories occupied, or is it Israel in the context of 242 and 338...?"

Answering a question on the so-called Gaza-Jericho first option, the Regent also emphasised Jordan's concerns of national security.

"The main issue that concerns us are security, that is to say cooperative security in the region as a whole... and the Israeli, even regard the

question of the tariff regime in terms of trade and their \$60 billion economy. (It is a) potential tremendous threat for the countries of the region..."

"We regard not only borders but the whole gamut of refugees, water, the issues that were part of the multilateral discussions as issues of direct concern to the state and to governments in the region that cannot be relegated to discussion simply in the Palestinian-Israeli track..."

Mideast turns a page today

(Continued from page 1)

Jerusalem as its capital, side-by-side with the state of Israel, will be created," he said.

The delegation with Arafat included members of the Palestinian "government-in-exile," such as Mr. Yasser Abed Rabbo, two PLO architects of the accord which was thrashed out with Israeli officials in Oslo.

A notable absentee in the PLO delegation was the organisation's political department chief and acting foreign minister, Farouk Kaddoumi, who opposes the accord.

Mr. Arafat said in an interview published Sunday that he planned to be in Jericho in a "matter of weeks" even though the autonomy plan allocates up to six months to implement an Israeli withdrawal.

"I'll live in Jericho and in Gaza. I intend on living in both places," Mr. Arafat told Israeli journalists in an interview published in the mass-circulation daily Yedioth Ahronoth.

"It's a matter of weeks, several weeks, at most ten weeks," Mr. Arafat answered when asked when he planned to arrive in Jericho.

About 300 well-wishers greeted Mr. Rabin and Mr. Peres, some blowing kisses and throwing flowers at them as they arrived at Ben Gurion airport near Tel Aviv to board a special air force jet.

A group of Arab Druze women among them help up signs in Hebrew that read "we don't want any more war."

Neither leader made any statements, but Mr. Peres told the radio before the departure that he believed "very many" Israelis supported the agreement.

Asked by the radio whether when signing the agreement at the White House, he would be shaking Mr. Arafat's hand, alongside Mr. Rabin, Mr. Peres said "definitely yes."

Tarawneh to represent Jordan

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Clinton said in Houston, Texas, later Saturday that he expected Jordan and Israel to formalise their agenda for peace talks "soon."

Dr. Marwan Muasher, head of the Jordan Information Bureau in Washington and spokesman for the Kingdom's peace negotiating team, said Saturday that Jordan and Israel hoped to announce agreement on the agenda on Tuesday, probably at a joint news conference at the State Department.

"It is tentative," Dr. Muasher told Reuters, but added: "We expect to be able to do it Tuesday."

"There will be no signing," he said. "What probably will happen is we will announce it in a joint press conference at the State Department."

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Sunday in an American television interview: "There is a reason to believe that on Tuesday there will be a signing of the agenda for the continuation of negotiations between Israel and Jordan."

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Egypt starts export guarantees with French help

CAIRO (R) — Egypt opened an export credit guarantee agency Sunday, in partnership with the French export credit agency Coface, to encourage its exporters to venture into new markets and offer better terms of payment.

Export Development Bank of Egypt (EDBE) Chairman Hazem Al Behlawi, who set up the Export Credit Guarantee Company of Egypt, said it would provide insurance to cover exporters against non-payment on shipments they had made.

"The Egyptian exporter has been reluctant to offer the kind of payment terms he needs to get sales. Now he will be much more aggressive," Mr. Behlawi told Reuters late Saturday.

"The deal with Coface is very important for us. We have no experience but we are not starting from zero because we will have their experience. It is a sort of co-partnership which will reduce the overall risk," he added.

Under the deal, Coface will co-insure Egyptian exporters, joining them to a pool of French exporters and splitting up the risk proportionally. A Coface officer will work in Egypt and there will be a communications link between the Paris and Cairo agencies.

Egypt has suffered a chronic trade deficit for decades. In 1991, the last year for which figures were available, imports of 25.22 billion pounds (\$7.51 billion) were more than double exports of 11.76 billion Egyptian pounds (\$3.50 billion).

The government, under political pressure over prices driven up by market-oriented economic reforms, would also like to see a surge in exports to help lead the economy out of a two-year recession.

Mr. Behlawi said the new agency, starting with 10 million Egyptian pounds (\$3 million) paid-up capital and a preferred loan of 50 million pounds (\$16 million) from the government, could help Egyptian firms regain markets they lost when communism collapsed in eastern Europe.

Egypt's extensive trade with the communist bloc under centrally-managed trade protocols has been ruptured by economic turmoil since the collapse of the Soviet Union.

EDBE has taken a 30 per cent stake in the export credit guarantee agency and provided many of its staff. The state-owned National Investment Bank has 20 per cent and three state-owned insurance firms have 30 per cent between them.

The remaining 20 per cent of stock has been distributed largely to three state-owned banks to sell on to the public.

U.S. companies seek more trade with South Africa

JOHANNESBURG (R) — A U.S. trade fair has made it clear American companies want to expand trade with South Africa as sanctions lift, but violence and political uncertainty are keeping investment away.

Fair organizer David Altman of Next International Marketing Consultants said he believed the five-day show had achieved its aim of reintroducing Americans and South Africans to each other after decades of apartheid isolation.

"I think we've opened a window for the business communities of both the United States and South Africa to meet each other and talk to each other," he told Reuters.

The fair was opened Tuesday by Thabo Mbeki, chairman of the African National Congress (ANC) who told the businessmen the ANC expected to call for the lifting of remaining economic sanctions by the end of the month.

ANC President Nelson Mandela also toured the fair, with about 200 companies on the ground and 800 represented, and urged Americans to invest in the New South Africa.

Mr. Altman said the interest shown by Mr. Mandela and Mr. Mbeki, and the presence at the fair of the U.S. risk insurance organization Overseas Private Investment Corp. "testing the waters," were major grounds for optimism.

Dumaisi Kumalo, a partner in Africa A.M. International Business and Development Associates, said South Africa was wide open for investment, with the 85 per cent black population deprived of advancement in the past.

"The wise investment would be to aim at the entire South African population, and that would do well," he said.

A former South African journalist, Mr. Kumalo went into exile in the United States in 1977 and was a driving force in imposing sanctions on the apartheid white minority government.

Now, he is working to have sanctions lifted and to attract investment to his homeland.

"This is now the time to come back and invest. Of course there is money to be made," he said.

Robert Appelbaum of Johannesburg law firm Moss-Morris Inc. which had a consultancy booth at the fair, said there had been "positive interest from the American side. But not serious interest in investing in South Africa."

Russian national airline could be split up

MOSCOW (R) — The international wing of Russia's national airline Aeroflot could be split up into four parts due to a decision by the state privatization agency, a senior Aeroflot official said.

"We are not sure that Aeroflot will stay in one piece," Vladimir Tikhonov, head of the international commercial department at Aeroflot, told reporters.

Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin signed an order in April to privatise Aeroflot-Russian International Airlines, which covers operations outside the former Soviet Union, as a whole, he said. But the state agency in charge of privatization, in defiance of Mr. Chernomyrdin's order, floated its own proposal to divide it into four independent airline companies.

The agency, Goskomimushchestvo, and the government's anti-monopoly committee argue that breaking up the Aeroflot monopoly is the only way to create healthy competition and raise standards.

Mr. Tikhonov said this option had won support from some government officials but criticised it fiercely. "If this is approved it will be a historic tragedy for Aeroflot," he said.

It would mean dividing up Aeroflot's 200-aircraft international fleet and cause the airline to lose its trademark, known worldwide, Mr. Tikhonov said.

Smaller national airlines would not be in a position to fly to some international destinations seen as unprofitable, he said.

"These flights can be conducted only by a big airline," said Mr. Tikhonov. "Now about 30 per cent of Aeroflot's flights are unprofitable but taking into account the whole flight network this is tolerable."

Aeroflot made \$1.2 billion profit last year on its international routes, making it the 43rd most profitable airline in the world, compared to a 1991 profit of \$800 million.

Mr. Tikhonov did not give a profit forecast for 1993 but said it would be "minimum" and less than last year.

Mr. Tikhonov said Aeroflot received no financial support from the government but that the cash-strapped government regularly received a portion of the airline's profits.

Turkey urges preparation for EC customs union

ISTANBUL (R) — President Suleyman Demirel urged Turkish industrialists Sunday to gear up for a customs union with the European Community (EC).

Turkey, an associate member of the EC, has pledged to tear down all tariff and non-tariff trade barriers against EC products by the end of 1995, as a key step to become a full member.

"Turkish industrialists should get ready for the customs union. Those who claim they will go bankrupt should put their companies in order," Mr. Demirel told a meeting of the Economic Development Foundation, marking the 30th anniversary of Turkish-EC ties.

Some Turkish economists have warned that the country's fledgling industries, including car makers, would collapse if all trade barriers are removed and the local market is flooded by cheaper European products.

Speaking at the same meeting, Christiane Scrivener, an EC Commission member, said a customs union would help force closer ties between the 12-nation Community and Turkey.

"A customs union is the best way of strengthening our relations," Ms. Scrivener said.

She said the EC would have to meet certain obligations towards Turkey when the customs union went into effect, including an easing of restrictions on Turkish textile imports.

Turkey hopes full membership will attract increased foreign investment, boost its exports and raise living standards.

About half of its trade is already with the EC nations.

"Turkey must draw capital by making it an attractive investment centre. We have to build industries and services that can compete with the world," Mr. Demirel said.

The Turkish leader said the government would have to privatise all state enterprises and dump protectionist policies to integrate with Europe.

"State enterprises have fulfilled their roles. Government funds no longer exist to finance protectionism," Mr. Demirel said. "It is absurd to subsidise industries that are not rational."

The EC, preoccupied by the unification of Germany, recession and potential new members in eastern Europe, shelved Turkey 1987 bid for full membership.

Turkey's ties with the EC have often been soured by its weak human rights record and its 1974 invasion of Cyprus where the Turkish-Cypriots self-proclaimed state in the north is recognised only by Ankara.

As Middle East tensions abate, so oil prices slide

LONDON (R) — The price of oil is in one of its periodic slumps when, as Middle East tensions ease, Western buyers fear a glut more than they do a threat to supply.

London futures for the world benchmark Brent Blend of crude oil sank last week below \$15.50 per barrel, their lowest since the 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Allow for inflation, and the price is no better than it was before the 1973 Arab oil embargo.

Now, as then, industry-watchers say that the value of the world's single most important strategic commodity is hostage to the volatile politics of the Middle East.

In 1973, prices set by OPEC (Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries) quadrupled when the Arabs cut supplies because of the West's support for Israel in a Middle East war.

A second "oil shock" occurred in 1979. The oil companies feared that Iran's Islamic revolution might engulf Saudi Arabia, the main oil supplier, and prices shot up above \$40.

They did that again, too, in 1990 when Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait and his missiles threatened the Saudi oil fields.

In between these "spikes," however, prices have tended to weaken, especially when the global economy is sluggish and oil demand turns flat.

At base, analysts say, these recurrent gluts mark a structural imbalance in world oil that is itself also created by the fear of political disruption in the Middle East.

That fear has persuaded the West to invest billions in a strategic insurance policy — tapping its own oil outside the Middle East in places like Alaska and the North Sea.

Norway now produces more than any OPEC seller except Saudi Arabia and Iran.

According to Philip Verleger at the Institute for International Economics in the United States, "the decline in OPEC's market power has probably been the largest contributor to the fall in crude prices."

On the bottom line is that prices are going to continue to decline," he said.

The West and other non-OPEC sellers like Russia refuse to impose output controls. That puts the burden exclusively on OPEC of setting quotas to try to defend prices at a level that keeps their high-cost oil fields in business.

By a stroke of irony, prices tumbled 30 cents just last Friday even as the Scottish city of Aberdeen played host to 50,000 guests at its 1993 offshore Europe exhibition.

Aberdeen is the base for British North Sea oil operations. Visitors could inspect such space-age technology as remote control pumps to sit on the seabed and extract petroleum at 50 kilometres from the nearest rig.

The show's theme was how to use new technology to cut costs and bring just a few more barrels of the West's own oil from declining fields.

All this was on a day when sagging prices evoked new OPEC calls for Saudi Arabia to shut in 500,000 more barrels of its abundant — and cheap — oil to put a floor under the market.

In yet another irony, however, politics in the Middle East may now conceivably help the Saudis to rescue the oil price.

On the face of it, the peace deal between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) looks "bearish," since it may promise a further easing of tension.

The oil market, however, is concerned less about the Levant than with Iraq — and with prospects that the United Nations may ease its Gulf war embargo on that nation's oil exports.

New self-offs have hit the petroleum futures pits each time a news headline has suggested that this could happen soon.

But now, the New York Times reports, Saudi King Fahd has promised U.S. President Bill Clinton to provide cash for the Palestinians to help to cement the Middle East deal.

It is just possible, say some traders, that this may make it easier for Saudi lobbyists to get the U.N. embargo on Iraq maintained for a bit longer.

EC poised to protect small depositors against bank failures

BRUSSELS (AFP) — The European Community (EC) is poised to approve harmonised regulations to protect small depositors against bank failures, despite the objections of Germany, diplomats have said.

Diplomats said the measure was the only decision of substance expected from a meeting of EC finance ministers Monday.

The ministers were expected to agree that depositors should be guaranteed refund of 90 per cent of their money up to a limit of 20,000 European Currency Units (about \$23,000) if a bank or building society goes.

Under the scheme, financial institutions throughout the Community would be required to join a deposit guarantee fund and agree to a minimum level of protection for deposits in any EC country.

Under the compromise crafted by the EC's current Belgian presidency, countries such as Greece, Spain and Portugal with less comprehensive guarantee systems or none at all would be allowed five years to meet the EC standard.

The proposal has been under discussion for a year, with some countries arguing that it was too strict, and others saying it was not strict enough. Germany, Italy and France currently have considerably more generous systems.

German officials said they would oppose the measure, because it would interfere with the voluntary German system, which offers virtually unlimited protection, and would force German banks outside the system to join it.

Germany is also objecting to the measure because foreign banks operating in Germany would be allowed to join.

And the German banks are worried that they might be required to lower their protection guarantee ceilings when they operate in countries with inferior systems, thus losing a competitive edge.

Diplomats said the measure would take only a cursory look at currency problems and the Maastricht treaty deadline for setting up a European monetary institute on Jan. 1 to promote progress towards a single currency by 1999.

Belgian Finance Minister Philippe Maystadt called last week for defences against currency speculation to protect the single currency project which has threatened to derail it over the past year.

But one diplomat said Monday's meeting would concentrate instead on the technicalities needed to set up the institute — the forerunner of a European central bank — by Jan. 1 next year.

"It is just possible that everything can be done in time to meet the deadline," he said, provided that Germany ratifies the Maastricht union treaty in October. The rest of the 11-country EC has already ratified it.

The ministers were considered unlikely to approve proposals for a bridging investment loan fund of five billion European Currency Units (\$5.85 billion) and for another fund to subsidise interest on loans to small businesses.

Both proposals, from the EC's executive European Commission, aim at boosting employment.

But a British official said the first bore too much resemblance to deficit financing — a sore point at a time when EC countries are supposed to be running down their deficits — and the second was impractical.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY SEPTEMBER 13, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You may be apt to be too sensitive and find that you're not feeling up to, par today and you will need to ignore some unpleasant comments if you are to maintain your equilibrium and keep on balance.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Use care where influential persons are concerned but in respect to your own personal desires go after them in a most original and unique fashion.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Consider well how you can advance more quickly in modern ways where your credit, career and community interests are concerned and you make out well.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You would be wise not to take on added responsibilities now while at the same time you are able to get a fresh new start on a project that is new.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Whatever an associate wants you to do is apt to be adverse to your best interests so study with care and depend upon attachments' suggestions.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Think about what modern-minded partners can do to help your joint enterprises and don't be so engrossed in your job that you miss out in this direction.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Consider well the various activities of a constructive nature in which you can make progress and stay away from pleasures that are frivolous.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Think today in terms of these special talents you have and the best manner in which you can put them across and avoid a family discussion.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Take care that you write and say exactly what you mean in communications with others and spend best efforts in improving your residence.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Be very careful not to be misled in a practical situation but you will be able to put progressive ideas across to usual companions with aplomb.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 19) Don't let a secret worry that confuses you take precedence over getting out and letting others know what your personal desire happens to be.

AQUARIUS: (January 20 to February 18) Don't let a secret worry that confuses you take precedence over getting out and letting others know what your personal desire happens to be.

PISCES: (February 19 to March 20) Keep away from a determined friend who wants something odd from you and instead build up a greater rapport with the one who means the most to you.

THE Daily Crossword by Roger Jurgovan

ACROSS

- Formerly
- Small
- Pub draw
- Out with a sickle
- Small person
- Golf score
- Singer Johnny
- On
- Samuel's
- Land
- Quail
- Made a shrill sound
- Golf score
- Murray and West
- Marauders
- Monasteries
- Basics
- Bellows
- Someone who can't see
- Elaborate melody
- Fence ladder
- Call for attention
- Pugnacious
- Cornflower
- Melancholy
- Life
- Breathes freely
- Sudden breath
- Singing lion
- Certain liquor
- Dote on
- Lustrous black
- Draft animals
- Goodies
- 27 Tug
- Pry curiously
- Actor Robert
- Curl
- off (irate)
- inventor

DOWN

- Killer whale
- Address Patricia
- Throw
- Short-lived
- Locations
- Jots
- Horse's gait
- International
- enlargement
- Loathe
- 10 Quick
- Win open
- Pile
- Cares for
- Skates
- Land area
- Certain Senné
- 27 Tug
- Surety for release
- Loose flavor
- swag
- Huntley or Allene
- 35 Winebibbers
- 37 Battle remainder
- 40 Acrid attitude
- 41 Monkeys
- 43 Promote
- 44 Respond
- 45 Senior
- 46 Stash
- 47 Skin openings
- 48 Silly one
- 51 Reed
- 52 Showy plant
- 53 Soda
- 54 A slaughter

Puzzle Solved:

1. Formerly
2. Small
3. Pub draw
4. Out with a sickle
5. Small person
6. Golf score
7. Singer Johnny
8. On
9. Samuel's
10. Land
11. Quail
12. Made a shrill sound
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31. Dote on
32. Lustrous black
33. Draft animals
34. Goodies
35. 27 Tug
36. Pry curiously
37. Actor Robert
38. Curl
39. off (irate)
40. inventor

THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen

GLASBERGEN

"Sometimes men still get the primal urge to kill their food. I just bashed open a can of ravioli."

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Harri Arnold

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

VARGE

LIBOR

RICION

DIMFOY

SOMETHING IN A HAT STORE THAT MIGHT MAKE YOU LOOK FOOLISH.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: A

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: CHALK, CHESS, BODILY, POPLIN
Answer: Where was the hen when the kid playing hooky caught him? — IN A SCHOOL

Peanuts

NOW, GET OUT THERE IN RIGHT FIELD, AND CONCENTRATE!

THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU'RE DOING...

KEEP YOUR MIND ON THE GAME...

KEEP YOUR HEAD OUT OF THE CLOUDS...

Andy Capp

DATA-TATY

DATA-TATY

HE NEVER ANSWERS THE FIRST QUESTION, AND EVEN IF THERE'S A SECOND, HE NEVER ANSWERS THAT EITHER. IT'S HARDLY LIKELY TO BE A JOAN COLLINS ON THE DOORSTEP.

Mutt'n'Jeff

YOUR TIRES ARE WORN DOWN KIND OF THIN, AREN'T THEY, YOUNG MAN?

YES!

DID YOU GET A PUNCTURE?

YES!

HOW DID YOU GET IT?

MOSQUITOES, MA'AM, MOSQUITOES!

JOHN J. JONES

Graffiti
Rock Cafe
Live Band
639197
Couples Only, or
Groups of Ladies & Gents

Yeltsin predicts trend towards Cooperation of CIS republics

MOSCOW (AP) — President Boris Yeltsin said Saturday that the era of bitter independence drives by the former Soviet republics is ebbing and predicted a trend towards cooperation.

"Everyone now understands that we need each other, especially in the economic sphere," Mr. Yeltsin said in an interview on state-run Russian Television.

Mr. Yeltsin made the statement at a government health centre outside Moscow, standing in a running suit next to an indoor pool just before plunging in for a few laps.

The comments and appearance were part of a campaign to portray Mr. Yeltsin as healthy and confident for a political offensive this month against hardliners who accuse him of destroying Russia, as well as the old Soviet Union.

Appearing flushed but relaxed, the 62-year-old leader said he would return to work Sunday after a two-day recovery from back pains, which Russian and visiting Spanish doctors diagnosed as radiculitis, a non-lethal nerve condition.

His office Friday said doctors pronounced Mr. Yeltsin healthy except for the back condition,

trying to counter allegations by his political opponents and some newspapers that the president is gravely ill.

Russia Wednesday agreed with five other ex-republics — Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Belarus, Armenia and Tajikistan — to work toward a new economic union that could lead to the restoration of a common currency.

Mr. Yeltsin's government also agreed Saturday with Kazakhstan to remove trade barriers, and the president last week launched a rapprochement with Azerbaijan by promising help in ending its five-year war with Armenians.

Asked whether the pact ended a "parade of sovereignties" in the former Soviet Union, Mr. Yeltsin smiled and answered, "No. I don't quite think so."

"I would say (to) whomever thought it is possible to model a union again, 'no, it won't work,'" Mr. Yeltsin said. "And whoever thought it was simple to become independent just on their own was also wrong."

He predicted that the nine leaders of the Commonwealth of Independent States finally will sign documents creating an economic union during their next meeting, scheduled for Sept. 24.

His spokesman, Vyacheslav Kostikov, wrote Friday that economic ties will lead to political cooperation beneficial to all former Soviet citizens.

"It's a question of time," Mr. Kostikov wrote in the daily Kommunistika Pravda. "To deny this impulse means not seeing or hearing either the lessons of history or the real hopes of millions of average people."

His comments were directed at Ukrainian nationalists, who oppose closer ties with Russia and have attacked President Leonid Kravchuk for agreeing with Mr. Yeltsin last week to settle a bitter dispute over control of nuclear weapons and Black Sea naval vessels.

Mr. Kravchuk had said Kiev could no longer afford to fight Moscow and must face the reality that some kind of economic cooperation was essential to its survival.

Meanwhile, Azerbaijani leader Geidar Aliev told a special U.S. envoy Saturday that his country wants better relations with the United States and help in ending

the war with Armenia.

"The situation in Azerbaijan is complicated. Internal tension exists. Armenian aggression continues. We need contact with representatives from Washington," Mr. Aliev told Strobe Talbott, the envoy.

Mr. Talbott, President Bill Clinton's special adviser on the former Soviet Union, was in Baku as part of an extended trip throughout the newly independent states of the collapsed Communist empire.

The visit is part of a stepped up effort by the United States to help mediate conflicts in the former Soviet Union, including warfare in the Caucasus Mountains region and Central Asia.

"This is a good beginning of a dialogue," Mr. Talbott said after meeting Mr. Aliev, Azerbaijan's former Communist leader who came to power in June after the ouster of Aliyev, the democratically elected president.

Mr. Aliev has been seeking outside help to resolve Azerbaijan's war with Armenian forces over the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh, an area populated by ethnic Armenians but located inside Azerbaijan.

background Saturday as police tried to repress a march by protesters against the 1973 military coup in Chile (AFP photo)



A man lies dead on a Santiago pavement after being run over by the water cannon tank in the

background Saturday as police tried to repress a march by protesters against the 1973 military

coup in Chile (AFP photo)

2 killed during Chilean protests

SANTIAGO (AFP) — An elderly man and a youth were killed Saturday as protesters clashed with police in demonstrations marking the 20th anniversary of the coup in which General Augusto Pinochet seized power, authorities said.

About 100 others were injured in the unrest, officials said. At least five of those hurt were hit by gunfire, one doctor said.

Police arrested 128 protesters, according to leaders of a leftist coalition taking part in the marches.

Salvador Allende, a Socialist, killed himself following an aerial bombardment during the 1973 right-wing military coup led by General Augusto Pinochet.

Gen. Pinochet ruled until 1990, when Mr. Aylwin was inaugurated and the country returned to democracy. Gen. Pinochet remains head of the army and is a senator-for-life.

When police fired tear gas, demonstrators retreated to near-by streets to join about 3,000 others marching toward the Santiago Cemetery where Mr. Allende is buried.

ful demonstration in memory of President Allende to be put down with gunfire," said Humanist Green Party leader Gabriel Feres.

In the well-heeled neighbourhoods of Providencia, La Reina and Las Condes, cars paraded in formation to celebrate the anniversary, honking their car horns and waving Chilean flags. Police did not intervene.

Gen. Pinochet came close Saturday to asking Chile's forgiveness, twenty years after he led the bloody military coup.

The coalition — the Allendist Democratic Movement of the Left — charged President Patricio Aylwin's Christian Democratic government with repression, and the police with allegedly provoking peaceful demonstrators.

Deputy Interior Minister Belisario Velasco said the government had asked the Supreme Court to name a judge to lead an investigation into Saturday's violent unrest.

The unidentified older man killed, who was not involved in the demonstration, was run over by one of the police vehicles firing tear gas and water cannons to disperse hundreds of demonstrators attempting march on the presidential palace.

Gen. Pinochet came close Saturday to asking Chile's forgiveness, twenty years after he led the bloody military coup.

"He who has been in battle knows what the noise of bullets means, knows what it is like to face enemies, knows when someone falls at one's feet. All this produces a mental uncontrol which many times leads to unjustified excesses," Gen. Pinochet said, referring to the events surrounding the coup.

"Those who have done nothing, can fear nothing," Gen. Pinochet, who once said he was predestined by God to save Chile, said.

Choking back tears, Mr. Allende's widow Hortensia Bussi placed a bouquet at the window of the La Moneda Presidential Palace where 20 years ago her husband was found dead by bullet wounds as troops faithful to Gen. Pinochet surrounded the palace.

"Salvador Allende, rest in peace. Your people love you, admire you and respect you, we all miss you," she said.

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Nineteen-year-old Vladimir Munoz apparently died from a bullet wound to the neck he sustained later in the demonstration, police said.

One crowd was trying to march on the palace where President

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Canada premier opens election campaign

TORONTO (AP) — Prime Minister Kim Campbell fired the starting gun launching Canada's national election campaign and almost immediately stumbled with an insensitive remark about unemployment. If any single comment marked the first week of the campaign for the Oct. 20 election, it was Ms. Campbell's statement that employment in Canada probably won't improve before the year 2000. While that may be true, it certainly wasn't the kind of hope voters are looking for, especially the 11.3 per cent who are jobless. It could be the killer remark that destroys a campaign. It delighted Ms. Campbell's opponents. "Because she is a new figure on the political scene, those first impressions are very important," said Lawrence Leduc, a professor of political science at the University of Toronto. "She has to be careful how she is perceived in these early days." Asked by a reporter when Canadians could expect unemployment to drop below 10 per cent, the prime minister responded: "I think, realistically, all the developed countries are expecting... what I consider an unacceptable level of unemployment for the next two, three or four years."

Greek premier promises bright future

SALONIKA, Greece (R) — Greek Prime Minister Constantine Mitsotakis, facing an uphill battle for reelection, predicted an end to austerity if his conservative government won a fresh term of office in the October polls. But recession-hit voters in the northern city of Salonika appeared hesitant to share his vision that a bright economic future was just around the corner. "He was saying the same things three years ago and since then our living standards have gone down dramatically," said merchant Elias Argyris after watching the premier's television address. Mr. Mitsotakis, opening the Salonika International Fair Saturday night, was cheered by about 3,000 supporters when he announced the end of a three-year austerity programme. He also warned that Greece's economy would collapse completely if his Socialist opponents were elected to government in the Oct. 10 election.

Abiola to return to Nigeria in 2 weeks

LONDON (AFP) — Moshod Abiola, the Nigerian politician believed to have won the annulled June 12 presidential elections, will return home from Britain in about two weeks, an aide said. He confirmed that Mr. Abiola had met members of the interim government that replaced military leaders General Ibrahim Babangida last month but refused to give any details of the talks. Mr. Abiola himself said in a BBC-Radio interview that he had initially planned to return this weekend but had delayed his return after the head of the interim government Ernest Shonekan had expressed fears for his security. Mr. Abiola denied reaching any kind of compromise with the new Nigerian authorities. He said he had no plan to be a candidate in new presidential elections set for February in his view he was elected in June.

Shevardnadze takes over Interior Ministry

TEBULI (AFP) — Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze took over the post of interior minister in a cabinet reshuffle after saying he may declare a "state of emergency" Sunday following rebel advances in western Georgia. The ITAR-TASS News Agency. Mr. Shevardnadze announced his reshuffle Saturday, saying he was temporarily taking over the Interior Ministry in a bid to "improve the fight against crime." Foreign Minister Alexander Chikvaidze and Defence Minister Guia Karkarashvili have stayed in their posts in the reshuffled cabinet, which has 15 ministers, five committee presidents and five deputy prime ministers. ITAR-TASS reported. In the past few days there have been increasing attacks by rebels loyal to ousted President Zviad Gamsakhurdia in western Georgia. And last week some 200 armed supporters, or so-called Zviadists, crossed into the enclave of Abkhazia seizing the town of Gali. They now control several towns in Mr. Gamsakhurdia's native western Georgia.

Number of women MPs drops worldwide

CANBERRA (AP) — The average proportion of women represented in the world's parliaments has dropped significantly, according to a survey by the United Nations. Women occupy an average of 10.1 per cent of seats in national parliaments, down from a 14.6 per cent high recorded in 1988, the Inter-Parliamentary Union reported in a study released in Australia Sunday. The report covered a total worldwide parliamentary population of 35,881, of whom 3,626 are women. The survey was released prior to a meeting of women politicians from around the world. They are taking part in the 90th annual inter-parliamentary conference. The conference, meeting Sept. 13-18 in the Australian parliament, will bring together 500 parliamentarians from over 100 countries.

Economy is top issue in Polish elections

WARSAW (AFP) — When Poland's voters go to the polls next Sunday, by far the most important issue will be the direction of the economy: Towards liberalisation or state intervention. Prime Minister Hanna Suchocka hit the nail on the head with the slogan that accompanies the tacky photograph of herself on posters up and down this country: "The economy first of all." Her Democratic Union (DU) party has been telling voters that Poland needs more privatisation, more free-market economics, more foreign investment, and continued anti-inflation measures. But it is the ex-Communist alliance of the Democratic Left (ADL), with its campaign for a more "social" economic policy and the Farmer Party (PSL), a former Communist ally, when appear favourites to win, according to opinion polls. This is partly because the people have yet to feel that the painful transition to a modern economy has been worthwhile.

Seoul urges dialogue with North

ASHINGTON (R) — South Korean President Kim Young-un Saturday urged the leaders of North Korea, who he described as highly unpredictable, to return to the negotiating table to resume nuclear arms talks. "I think there is a major concern about the threat of nuclear proliferation in North Korea," Mr. Kim said when interviewed on CNN Television. "What we want... is that North Korea return to (the) dialogue table." North Korea dashed hopes for a resumption of long-stalled nuclear talks with the South this week when it demanded Seoul first discontinue its annual military exercises with the United States. "It is very difficult to predict what will happen in North Korea and in a sense it is the most uncertain regime in the whole world," said Mr. Kim, who made his remarks through an interpreter. He maintained that North Korea is trying to back away from the international non-proliferation treaty.

Yeltsin orders ministers to 'work it out'

MOSCOW (AP) — President Boris Yeltsin yielded to protests from economic reformers and repeated an order designed to slow the pace of privatisation. Economics Minister Oleg Lobov persuaded Mr. Yeltsin earlier this week to order the devaluation of millions of vouchers the government gave to its citizens to redeem for stock in privatised companies. The measure would cut the number of incorporated companies open to public investment, that brought an outcry from privatisation chief Anatoly Chubais and other reformers opposed to easing economic reforms. One pro-reform newspaper called Mr. Lobov economically "illiterate" and his ideas "surrealistic." Mr. Yeltsin sustained his order Saturday and instructing Mr. Lobov, Mr. Chubais and Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin "to work out a coordinate position," the ITAR-TASS News Agency reported, quoting presidential sources.

U.S. experimental rocket makes 2nd flight

WHITE SANDS MISSILE RANGE, N.M. (AP) — For 66 seconds Saturday, hundreds of people on this southern New Mexico missile range gaped in awe as a small experimental rocket went through its manoeuvres. The Delta Clipper-Experimental, a 42-foot (12.6-metre) prototype for a new generation of reusable spacecraft, climbed to about 300 feet (90 metres), hovered, moved laterally about 350 feet (105 metres), then made a vertical landing. It was only the second vertical landing made by a spacecraft on Earth. The first came after the DC-X's maiden flight last month. That test was closed to the public, but for Saturday's event hundreds of dignitaries, engineers and others were invited to watch. They watched silently as the ship rose into the air, and broke into cheers and applause as it settled gracefully back to earth.

1st Japanese to end Cambodian mission

TAKEO, Cambodia (AFP) — The first Japanese troops to serve abroad since World War II closed up camp here in southern Cambodia Sunday and prepared to end their U.N. peacekeeping mission. Its 450 soldiers, scheduled to depart Monday, will leave behind \$11 million worth of equipment for the Cambodian army. The 10 traditional bath houses, a number of generators, a kitchen full of aluminum kettles and porcelain bowls, and a golf driving range will ensure the presence of Japan will not be forgotten. Weeping villagers agree.

Reno: FBI and DEA duplicate efforts

PHILADELPHIA (R) — U.S. Attorney-General Janet Reno Saturday deplored duplicate efforts against illicit drugs but did not endorse merging the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). "That I want to try to do is figure out the best way to end the duplication while at the same time maintaining the drug enforcement effort at its present level or at an enhanced level," Ms. Reno told a national group of editorial writers. "That's not necessarily a merger of the two agencies," she added. Vice President Al Gore, as part of sweeping recommendations unveiled this week to increase governmental efficiency, has urged transferring the DEA's law-enforcement powers to the FBI. Both agencies operate under the authority of Ms. Reno, as head of the Justice Department. "Right now the drug enforcement initiative in America is so fragmented there is great duplication in terms of intelligence capability and in terms of automation and in terms of vehicles, procurement, budget, personnel, training," Ms. Reno said.

India to lift S. Africa sanctions

NEW DELHI (R) — India, a founder of the international movement against apartheid, will lift trade sanctions against South Africa this month, a government minister said Sunday. Minister of State for External Affairs Salman Khursheed, who made a rare private visit to South Africa this month, also said New Delhi was prepared to establish diplomatic ties with Pretoria within six weeks. "We will first lift the trade sanctions this month and follow that up with diplomatic ties," Mr. Khursheed said. India will also set up direct air links with South Africa on Oct. 2, the birthday of Indian leader Mahatma Gandhi who led a peaceful campaign against racism in South Africa before leading India to independence from Britain.

Ukraine commemorates famine

KIEV (R) — Ukraine's commemoration of a man-made famine which killed an estimated 7.5 million people in the 1930s reached its climax with film footage showing colossal suffering and a mock trial of the Stalinist system.

Altman film shares award at Venice festival

VENICE (AP) — American director Robert Altman's Short Cuts shared the Golden Lion for best film with Tetsu Kurosawa. Blue by Poland's Krzysztof Kieslowski as the 50th Venice Film Festival ended Saturday. "I'm thrilled, particularly for the cast," Altman said in an interview. The large cast, which was given a special collective award, is headed by Matt Damon, Tim Robbins, Jack Lemmon and Tom Wats. Fabrizio Vestivoglio won Best Actor for "Un Amore in Due" (A Soul Divided in Two) and Juliette Binoche was Best Actress for her role in Kieslowski's movie (Three Colors: Blue). Best supporting roles went to Marcello Mastroianni in Bertrand Blier's "Un, Deux, Trois, Soleil" (One, Two, Three, Sun), and Amy Brenneman in "Dance Siete? Io Sono Qui" (Where are you, I'm here) by Liliana Cavani.

Philippines' Miss World contender set for pageant

MANILA (AFP) — The reigning Miss Philippines is set to take part in the Miss World beauty pageant despite well-publicised and denied allegations that she prostituted herself in Brunei. Nineteen-year-old movie star Rufa Gutierrez told the Philippine Star newspaper that some people have suggested she quit the contest, to be held in South Africa in November, after the Senate investigated allegations that she was part of a high-class flesh trade in the oil-rich sultanate. "But why should I?" said Ms. Gutierrez, who made a tearful appearance at a public hearing of the Senate committee on women to deny the allegation. "If I did all the more people would think that I was guilty," she said, adding: "My conscience is clear and even if they ask me about this is South Africa, I won't be afraid because I am confident that I can explain myself as clearly as possible." "I have never been a quitter and I will go to the Miss World contest with my head held high," she said. The Senate committee resumes its hearings next week, this time in private following pressure from the Foreign Department, which is worried over repercussions in bilateral relations.

Father gets 11 years for raping 2 stepdaughters

HONG KONG (AFP) — A Peking court has sentenced a man to 11 years in prison for raping his two young stepdaughters and handed his wife two years jail for helping him, a report said here Sunday. The report said the woman agreed a year ago to help her husband rape her 13-year-old daughter after he, threatened to commit suicide because she was unable to give him a son, the Hong Kong China News Service was quoted by newspapers here as saying. The pair were arrested last year after the man raped his nine-year-old stepdaughter also with the help of his wife.

Accused car thief's resume found in stolen vehicle

MARSHALL, Minn. (AP) — A man accused of stealing a car was easy to track, police said, especially after they found his resume under one of the seats. Police discovered the handwritten resume when they looked through the stolen 1985 Chevrolet Celebrity they had recovered. Detective Timothy Tomasek then telephoned an employer listed on the resume for a different sort of reference. That led authorities straight to Scott Timothy Root, 31, of Russell. Root was charged with theft Friday and remained jailed Saturday, the Lyon County Sheriff's Department said.

Stray cats to be shot on sight

SYDNEY (R) — Stray cats in Australia's most populous state will be declared feral, noxious animals and shot on sight under a new law planned by the New South Wales government. The state's Rural Lands Protection Act is to be amended to declare cats which stray more than one kilometre from dwellings and foxes as wild, compelling landowners to destroy any of these animals found on their property. "At present rabbits, wild dogs and feral pigs are classified as noxious animals but foxes and feral cats are excluded," said parliamentarian Bob Martin. "Our law won't affect domestic cats. It classifies a feral cat as one found a kilometre or more from a dwelling." There are an estimated 18.4 million feral cats in Australia, with domesticated cats who become strays constantly replenishing the population, conservation officials say. Feral cats prey on more than 100 species of native birds, as well as various kinds of mammals and reptiles, and carry and transmit infectious diseases.

July 1993

Ramtha Soccer Championship

Wihdat face Syria's Wihdeh today

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan's Al Ramtha and Al Wihdat have so far proven that they will not settle for an advanced position at the 2nd Ramtha Soccer Championship now underway in Irbid.

The championship, which opened Thursday under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Hassan, has drawn six teams. The first group includes Al Wihdat, Syria's Al Wihdeh, and Qatar's Al Wakrah, while the second group includes Al Ramtha, Palestine's Gaza, and Iraq's youth national team.

Al Ramtha beat Gaza 3-1 in the opening match. The first half ended 2-0 for Al Ramtha.

In another match Al Wihdat scored an impressive 3-1 win over Al Wakrah to top their group's standing.

Gaza was eliminated from the championship when they lost 5-2 to the Iraqi team. The first half ended 3-1.

Only the top two teams from each group will advance to the semifinal round which begins Sept. 17.

In the upcoming matches Al Wihdat will play Al Wihdeh Monday, Al Ramtha play Iraq Tuesday and Al Wakrah clash with Al Wihdeh Wednesday.



Al Wihdat's team

Wihdat play Al Wihdeh Monday, Al Ramtha play Iraq Tuesday and Al Wakrah clash with Al Wihdeh Wednesday.

STANDINGS

GROUP 1						
	P	W	L	GF	GA	PTS
Iraq	1	1	-	5	2	2
Ramtha	1	1	-	3	1	2
Gaza	2	-	2	3	8	0

GROUP 2						
	P	W	L	GF	GA	PTS
Wihdat	1	1	-	3	1	2
Wakrah	1	-	1	1	3	1
Wihdeh	-	-	-	-	-	-

U.S. Open

Graf claims 3rd U.S. Open crown

Sampras back at No. 1

NEW YORK (AFP) — Steffi Graf claimed the 14th Grand Slam title of her career Saturday with a straight-set victory over Helena Sukova in the U.S. Open women's singles final.

Graf, the world number one and top seed, did what second-seeded Arantxa Sanchez Vicario and number three Martina Navratilova could not: Find a way to pass the tall Czech when she tried to attack at the net.

The German needed just an hour and five minutes to beat Sukova 6-3, 6-3.

Although she had a few shaky moments on her own serve, including a double fault at break point in the second set, Graf was never really under pressure.

Her service breaks came after she had broken Sukova, and her passing shots did the job.

Graf, who has now won six tournaments in a row, three of them Grand Slams, said that run of success was self-perpetuating.

"I feel confident. When I know I am playing well, when I realize how well I am playing, it is difficult to do something against me."

As Sukova found out. "Today she was better, there was nothing I could do about it," said Sukova, the 12th seed.

She was playing in her second U.S. Open final, after finishing runner-up to Navratilova in 1986.

Sukova was upset at some of the line calls, especially in the first set.

In the second game of the match, she disagreed with a call that gave Graf double break point. Sukova thought the approach went wide.

She complained to the umpire, then took her time with her next serve, but dropped the game with a double fault.

She said that early lead was crucial for Graf.

"It's difficult when you lose games like that," she said. "If she gets ahead, there's less pressure on her."

However, she also admitted that she was a little too slow, a little too prone to mistakes.

"I had chances, but I wasn't as sharp as I needed to be at the important times of the match," she said.

Sukova, Sanchez Vicario score doubles upset

Helena Sukova, denied a U.S. Open singles title earlier in the day, teamed with Arantxa Sanchez Vicario to score a big victory in women's doubles at the U.S. Open Saturday night.

Sukova and Sanchez Vicario beat Gigi Fernandez and Natalia Zvereva 1-6, 6-3, 6-4 in the semifinals to end the top-ranked



Steffi Graf

team's hopes of a Grand Slam and its 41-match slam winning streak.

Fernandez and Zvereva had won six straight Grand Slam tournaments, dating to last year's French Open.

U.S. OPEN NOTEBOOK:

Becker's girlfriend expecting baby in January: Boris Becker's girlfriend, Barbara Feltus, is expecting the couple's first child in mid-January.

Becker told German reporters at the U.S. Open in New York that he and Feltus will be married soon.

The three-time Wimbledon champion said he was delighted at becoming father.

Becker told reporters he had been seeking advice on how to combine his tennis career with new responsibilities as a husband and father from Stefan Edberg.

The Swedish star and his wife had their child at the end of July.

Becker will pass up the Australian Open, but among the tournaments in which he plans to enter is the \$6 million Grand Slam Cup in December at Munich, Germany.

He will then take a break to be present when the baby is born.

Le Cinqieme Musketeer:

Lacoste... Borotra... Cochet... and now, Pioline.

By beating Wally Masur Saturday, Cedric Pioline became the fourth Frenchman to reach the Open men's final. Aside from the Pioline household, the names of the others are a bit better known.

The 15th-seeded player from Paris joined the ranks of Rene Lacoste, the winner of the U.S. men's championships in 1926-27, Jean Borotra, who lost to Lacoste in '26, and Henri Cochet, who won in 1928 and '32.

Those three men, along with Jacques Brugnon, made up the "four musketeers" of French tennis in the 1920s and '30s. Chalk player's delight: When it comes to picking winners in women's singles at grand slam tournaments, it pays to follow the rankings.

Steffi Graf's triumph over Helena Sukova Saturday marked the 25th time in the last 26 Grand Slams that either the No. 1 or No. 2 seeded players won the women's championship.

The only exception — the U.S. Open of 1990, when fifth-seeded Gabriela Sabatini won.

Graf's victory also marked the 13th time in the Open era that the No. 1 seeded woman's player won the championship.

Sukova, at No. 12, was the lowest-seeded woman's finalist at the Open since No. 16 Pam Shriver in 1978. Shriver lost the final to Chris Evert.

Returning to form: The author of one of the tournament's biggest upsets finally lost Saturday.

No, it wasn't Karel Novacek or Wayne Ferreira or Lella Meskhi. Those players, all of whom beat big names in the first round of the main draws, were all long gone.

Sticking around until the semifinals of boys singles, however, was Paul Goldstein, an unseeded 17-year-old from the United States, who beat the world's top-ranked junior, Razvan Saban of Romania, in the second round.

In girls singles, fourth-seeded Julie Steven of Wichita, Kansas, lost to 15th-seeded Yuka Yoshida of Japan, 6-1, 7-6 (7-4), in the semifinals.

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Ferguson blames internationals for defeat

LONDON (AFP) — Manchester United Manager Alex Ferguson blamed international duties for the English champions' first defeat in six months at Chelsea Saturday.

Most of the premiership leaders' squad in the 1-0 reversal were on duty for in the European under-21 championship Tuesday on the World Cup Wednesday.

"The effect of going on international duty showed in the first 20 minutes, when they were second to every ball," Ferguson moaned after his side had fallen to a Gavin Peacock effort.

"When you're playing away from home, you want to make an early impact, but we allowed Chelsea to get a foot in the game."

"But I'm not bothered about it. We're still top. That's a consolation. We haven't cut our throats badly."

Chelsea boss Glen Hoddle felt the London club produced their finest performance of the season under his management.

"In the first 45 minutes we played fantastic football and opened them up," he enthused.

"In the second half we had to show our other side and dig deep. Some of our defensive play was superb. That has given us a lot of

belief in ourselves.

"We matched them for skill, we matched them for effort and I'm just pleased at how far we've come."

United defeat allowed double cup winners Arsenal to draw level on points with their 4-0 home demolition of Ipswich, who succumbed to a Kevin Campbell hat-trick.

Gunnars boss George Graham beamed: "That was just what Kevin needed. He had an easy goal to start with and then produced a superb all round display."

"I've seen him play even better, but this was an excellent performance by him and I thought we were comprehensively better."

Ipswich manager John Lyall locked his team in the dressing room for an hour-long inquest afterwards. But team coach Mick McGivern emerged to admit: "A lot of other teams would have suffered against Arsenal today — not just Ipswich."

"Arsenal overwhelmed us here last season as well, but we got away with a goalless draw. This time they had brilliant individual skills to score four."

Aston Villa Manager Ron Atkinson felt Wales striker Dean Saunders should have emulated Campbell. But his side only got a goalless draw against Coventry, who are now third.

BRITISH SOCCER

"He might have had a hat-trick today, even a hat-trick of headers," Atkinson complained.

"And they were misses. They weren't saves, although he was desperately unlucky with his first chance."

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♥ Void
♦ A J
♣ K J 9 8 3 2
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5♥ 5♠ Dbl Pass
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South certainly had the wherewithal to contest the auction after East's full-blooded leap to game, but the suit quality of both of South's long suits left something to be desired. However, on the auction there had to be a fit for North-South

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World Bank proposes \$3b plan for West Bank, Gaza

WASHINGTON (R) — The World Bank Sunday proposed a \$3 billion, 10-year economic development plan for the West Bank and Gaza Strip to help improve chances of a lasting peace in the Middle East.

The plan, drawn up in conjunction with the Middle East peace talks, is expected to serve as the focus of an international drive led by the United States to provide financial backing for Palestinian self-rule in the Israeli-occupied territories.

In an interview in the Sunday edition of the New York Times newspaper, U.S. President Bill Clinton said he expected the U.S. contribution to be modest.

"This is not Camp David where the United States basically had to assume financial responsibility," Mr. Clinton said, referring to the 1978 peace accord between Egypt and Israel.

He said most of the aid this time would come from Japan, the European Community, Scandinavia and oil-rich Gulf states (see page 2).

World Bank officials, while saying the lending organisation was prepared to play its part, made clear it was giving the bulk of the cash, but would provide supplementary financing.

In a special report on the occu-

ried territories, the bank saw an urgent need for a major upgrading of public services in the West Bank and Gaza Strip—from new power plants to sewerage facilities.

"Significant external capital flows will be needed during the take-off period," it said. "(That) is... essential for the future peace and prosperity in the region."

The bank proposed a two-stage, high-priority, public investment programme for the West Bank and Gaza Strip to improve immensely living conditions in the territories.

The first stage, covering the next five years, would cost \$1.35 billion. It would include outlays of \$280 million on water and sewerage projects, \$330 million on transport, \$330 million on power plants and \$190 million on education.

The second stage would cost \$1.6 billion and would cover the following five years. During that period, about \$500 million would be spent on transport and \$600 million on power projects.

On top of the \$3 billion in public investment it has proposed for the next 10 years, the World Bank said that the territories would need an extra \$2.5 billion in private sector investment during that time to make their economy viable.

It said that much of that money could come from prosperous expatriate Palestinians and it suggested selling them Palestinian bonds or Arafat bonds, as they've already become known as in financial circles, after PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

The World Bank proposal will be discussed in Washington on Sept. 20 by officials of the PLO, Israel and Arab states. The PLO is expected to propose a more ambitious plan covering the period through the year 2000 and costing \$11.6 billion.

Bank officials earlier this month had said the lending organisation planned to propose a \$4.3 billion economic development programme for the territories, but their calculations apparently involved some double-counting.

The \$3 billion bank plan though does not take into account an expected influx of expatriate Palestinians back to the occupied territories now that a peace agreement was being signed the PLO and Israel. Such an influx would likely add to development costs there.

The bank's proposed investment programme also excluded finance for day-to-day running of the new Palestinian entity. They would boost costs by a further \$500 million, the bank said.



Israeli policemen talk to arrested Palestinians in the Shawfat refugee camp in north Jerusalem Sunday where the Israeli army sealed two Palestinian homes. Sons of these families have been found guilty of killing an Israeli Jewish woman a year ago (AFP photo)

Jericho residents seek to block being pushed aside

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Residents of Jericho with a history of resistance against the Israeli occupation are gearing up to ensure that they are not sidelined in the wave of Palestinian leadership-in-exile that is expected to sweep their hometown before the end of the year.

Saleh Balou, who served as deputy head of Jericho's municipal council elected in 1976 before being deposed by the Israeli military administration, says he and other members of the council are demanding that the body be reinstated since it represented the last elected authority in the town.

"We are the legitimate representatives of the people of Jericho," Mr. Balou, who is visiting Jordan to lobby Jericho natives resident in the Kingdom, said in an interview.

"We have been in touch with officials of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and told them that our council should be reinstated," he said.

Mr. Balou, a former school teacher who was first elected to the council in 1972, said the Israeli occupation forces "very conveniently used" a provision in the Jordanian law in 1981 to remove the eight-member body from office and appoint a three-member panel in its place when the council's head, Abdul Aziz Al Sweiti, died.

It was a classic example of how Israel used Jordanian laws, which were in force in the West Bank before the Jewish state occupied it in 1967, whenever it suited its purposes in the occupied territories.

Mr. Balou said he and fellow committee members were

trying to contact the thousands of Jericho natives who fled to the East Bank in 1967 with a view to "ensuring that our voice is heard and listened to" ahead of the implementation of the Israeli-PLO autonomy agreement.

Jericho, a sleepy, Biblical town of about 17,000 to 18,000 residents in the Jordan Valley on the main route between Amman and Jerusalem, is expected to be the base for the Palestinian self-authority stemming from an agreement expected to be signed in Washington today in a ceremony attended by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

"We don't know of the PLO's plans for Jericho," said another Jericho resident who is also visiting Jordan in a bid to lobby his compatriots.

"We have to ensure that we are not sidestepped by some of those who find it convenient to join the peace wagon after staying away from the struggle against occupation for decades," said the activist, who preferred anonymity.

"Many of us in Jericho have always resisted the occupation and have our bodies to prove it," said the man, rolling up his shirt to expose a scarred back which he said was the result of Israeli torture in prison.

"We have always felt that Jericho was not properly represented even after the peace process took off," said the man, ignoring a reminder that Saeb Erakat, a Jericho resident, was the deputy head of the Palestinian peace negotiating team.

"We don't want any confrontation, but we will insist that the rights of the people of Jericho are not pushed aside by the PLO leadership," he added

in what appeared to be a fore-runner of what Mr. Arafat and his associates are likely to hear in the West Bank and Gaza. Reports from the PLO headquarters in Tunis say that the PLO leadership is aware of the pitfalls that await it in the occupied territories.

Part of a special committee formed by the PLO this week is to enlist the support of local notables and activists in the functions of the self-rule authority.

But residents of the West Bank believe that the PLO leadership, long known to favour those who tow the line, would focus on a few people with "proven credentials"—meaning loyalty to the organisation—while setting up its apparatus in the occupied territories, the activist said.

Mr. Balou said he also discussed with PLO officials in Amman "preparations to receive Arafat, who is expected to arrive in the next 10 weeks."

"Jericho is in no shape to celebrate let alone arrange a welcoming ceremony," he said. "The roads are damaged, the water network is broken and our schools and hospitals are in bad shape."

"The Israelis simply did not care," he said, adding that the occupation authorities, in line with a long-held Israeli policy, refused to entertain complaints of neglect.

"When we point out a street lamp is broken and needs replacement, the (Israeli) officer will say, 'let the father of the boy who threw stones and broke it replace it with his own money,'" he said, citing an example of Israel's refusal to abide by the Geneva conventions related to the treatment of people and land under occupation by the occupier.

Tudjman orders 24-hour ceasefire

ZAGREB (Agencies) — Croatian President Franjo Tudjman has ordered a 24-hour unilateral ceasefire by his armed forces to give him time to reach a truce with Serb separatists, the official agency Hina reported Sunday.

Mr. Tudjman made the announcement while addressing the national defence and Security Council, meeting in Zagreb to examine the military and political situation in the light of "increased Serb aggression on Croatian towns."

He did not say at what time the ceasefire would take effect.

Meanwhile, Croatian army tanks were reported moving towards Okucani on part of the Zagreb to Belgrade motorway controlled by Serb separatists in Croatia, the Yugoslav Agency Tanjug reported Sunday.

Tanjug, citing Serb military sources in Bosnia, said the Croatian army was trying to retake the portion of the highway in Serb hands.

An attack was also expected on Serb separatist positions in Western Slovenia, the sources said.

Separately, fighting continued between Serbs and Croats in the southern region of Gospije, where Serb forces were trying to retake the villages of Divoselo and Citluk which fell into Croatian hands on Friday.

The Croatian army is thereby attempting to "control the communication axis between Gospije and the bridge of Maslenica," the Serb agency in Krajina, Iskra, reported.

Meanwhile, Sunday morning four explosions rocked the centre of the town of Samobor, 30 kilometres west of Zagreb, Croat radio reported.

The first explosion, at 8:05 a.m. (0605 GMT) hit the picturesque town's antique market. It was followed by three others in quick succession which all hit within 500 metres of the first, police said.

The missiles were Okran shells which carry numerous small time-bombs which look like little bells with a ribbon attached.

Radio Samobor broadcast regular warnings to the population not to touch these little bells or any other unknown metallic objects.

On Saturday evening a ground-

to-ground Luna-17 hit a western suburb of Zagreb injuring nine people and damaging a dozen homes.

American role

Some 50,000 peacekeepers would be needed to implement a possible Bosnia peace accord, and about half the troops would be American, Defence Secretary Les Aspin said Sunday.

Mr. Aspin's remarks — which he said were based on the assessment of U.S. military planners — were the most specific to date on the size and makeup of a U.N.-sanctioned multinational force that might be asked to enforce an accord in Bosnia.

Speaking at a defence conference in Brussels, Mr. Aspin predicted it would be hard to get the Congress to approve U.S. participation if the allies did not contribute at least half the force.

"It's not going to be easy in any case," to get a congressional go-ahead, he said.

Mr. Aspin gave a speech and answered questions from the audience at a conference of the International Institute for Strategic Studies in Brussels.

At the defence conference Mr. Aspin was asked about planning for implementing a possible peace agreement that would divide Bosnia among the Croats, Serbs and Muslims. At first Mr. Aspin said it was "too sensitive" to discuss in public.

Then he referred to recent news accounts of the likely size of a peacekeeping force.

"The numbers that you see (in newspapers) are roughly what it's looking like," Mr. Aspin said. "You're talking about overall numbers of around 50,000 total."

Mr. Aspin said President Bill Clinton was not ready to officially commit the United States to participating in a Bosnia peacekeeping force, but that in any case it was politically important that the allies contribute heavily to any such force.

"I do believe it is a very difficult proposition to convince the American congress to do that if the expectation is that the allies aren't going to be up at least 50 per cent of that," he said. "It's not going to be easy in any case."

New York bombing trial starts tomorrow

NEW YORK (R) — Four suspects charged with bombing the World Trade Centre in New York go on trial this week accused of carrying out what has been called the single most destructive act of terrorism on American soil.

The Feb. 26 bombing tore through the garage level below the 110-storey twin towers, the largest U.S. office complex, killing six people and injuring more than 1,000.

Prosecutors have laid the blame on a group of alleged Muslim fundamentalists, some of whom are followers of Egyptian cleric Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman.

He has been charged in a separate federal case with leading the group that bombed the trade centre and heading a conspiracy "to levy a war of urban terrorism against the United States."

The blind cleric is expected to go on trial next year with 14 others on conspiracy charges that include planning to blow up the United Nations and other New York landmarks and plotting to kill Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

The case that will begin on Tuesday involves four defendants: Mohammad Salameh, 25, an illegal immigrant of Palestinian descent, Nidal Ayyad, 25, a naturalised U.S. citizen of Palestinian descent, Mahmoud Abou Halima, 33, an Egyptian, and Ahmad Ajaj, 27, a Palestinian born in Jerusalem.

They are named in a 13-count U.S. indictment blaming them for the blast and resulting deaths and injuries. If convicted, they face a possible maximum term of life in prison.

Their trial at New York's tightly guarded federal courthouse, a short walk from the World Trade Centre, is expected to last at least three months.

Two other defendants, Ramzi Yousef and Abdul Yasin, remain fugitives.

Mr. Salameh was the first arrested, on March 4, as he was trying to get back his deposit on a Rental Van. Prosecutors allege that the van carried the bomb to the blast site.

Mr. Salameh had reported the van stolen the day before the blast. Two hours after the explosion, he appeared at the rental office, saying the vehicle had been stolen from a grocery store parking lot the night before.

He was arrested on his third trip back to claim the \$200 refund. Police have never explained why he was so persistent about the money when he was allegedly part of a massive conspiracy and presumably wanted to avoid detection.

Mr. Ayyad, a chemical engineer, is alleged to have helped make the bomb. Mr. Abou Halima, who was brought back from Egypt to stand trial, is the alleged ringleader, while Mr. Ajaj is linked to some bomb manuals.

Defence lawyers are expected to argue that scientific evidence linking their clients to the blast is tenuous and in many cases represents guilt by association.

Abdul Shafi wonders whether accord will lead to real peace

By Paul Eedle
Reuters

WASHINGTON — In the 74-year lifetime of Palestinian negotiator Haidar Abdul Shafi, Israel has grown from a dream in the minds of 100,000 settlers to a state of five million people.

Dr. Abdul Shafi is still not convinced that the agreement that Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) will sign at the White House on Monday means real peace between Jews and the Arabs they pushed aside. He has lived too long and seen too much.

"Let us hope it will be genuine," he told Reuters. "Real peace cannot stand the test of time if it is not based on fairness and justice."

"In spite of the fact that I am not comfortable with this agreement, still I am not drawing final conclusions about the situation," he said. "Certainly I am not going on my side to do anything that would obstruct this attempt."

As Israelis and other Palestinians line up to talk about their euphoria on U.S. television shows, Dr. Abdul Shafi looks isolated and irrelevant.

His quietly argued doubts are unfashionable and his job as chief Palestinian negotiator at the Middle East peace talks is suddenly pointless. Israel and the PLO

reached their agreement in secret talks in Norway and from now on will be negotiating openly.

Dr. Abdul Shafi helped to transform the world's image of Palestinians when Middle East peace talks began in 1991 at a glittering conference in Madrid. Instead of a wild-eyed revolutionary, a television audience of millions saw an elderly, bald physician pleading his people's cause with measured logic.

Now he sits on a sofa in a vast, impersonal hotel suite and refuses to say whether he will even attend the signing ceremony on Monday. He worries because the agreement on Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip does not rule out future Israeli claims to "sovereignty" over the territories.

But Dr. Abdul Shafi is used to being unfashionable and appearing lonely, and nobody can accuse him of not believing in peace.

In 1947 he supported a United Nations resolution proposing that Palestine — the land between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea administered by Britain under an international mandate since 1920 — should be partitioned into two states, one for Jews and one for Arabs.

But other Arabs overwhelmingly rejected the resolution and went to war when the Jews

unilaterally declared the state of Israel in 1948. Arab armies were defeated and hundreds of thousands of Palestinians fled into half a century of exile.

"The Palestinians, aside from being victims of aggression, are also the victims of bad leadership," Dr. Abdul Shafi said. "That is why people were guided by their emotions and by nothing else. This has been part of our tragedy."

He can remember the simpler world of the mandate, when disaster looked inevitable but Arabs still lived side by side with the Jews.

"I happened to live as child in Hebron for two years. Our neighbours, the flat opposite our flat, were a Jewish family," he said, the memory squeezed from him by questions.

"Every Saturday morning, this Jewish lady would come early in the morning and knock at our door and call me — I was a young child — to go into her home and put off the kerosene lamps."

The storm broke in 1929. Arabs killed 135 Jews in a wave of violence, including 60 in Hebron. A total of 116 Arabs were killed, most of them by British police and troops crushing the revolt.

Dr. Abdul Shafi's memories become darker as the years pass. In 1956 Israeli troops invaded the

EC backs aid plan, to invite Arafat

ALDEN BIESEN, Belgium (Agencies) — The European Community (EC) gave broad backing Sunday to an EC economic aid plan aimed at bolstering peace in the Middle East, and said it would invite Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat for consultations.

EC foreign ministers, at an informal weekend meeting, hailed the Israeli-Palestinian agreement due to be signed in Washington on Monday, but stressed the need for prompt follow-up action to prevent the deal being sabotaged by opponents.

Belgian Foreign Minister Willy Claes, who chaired the talks and will attend the White House signing ceremony, announced at a news conference that he would invite the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chairman to meet EC foreign ministers in Brussels.

Jacques Delors, president of the EC's Executive Commission, told the same news conference ministers had given broad support for a commission plan to aid the Israeli-occupied territories and to encourage EC-style regional economic cooperation.

In addition to a 500 million ECU (\$600 million), five-year plan which Mr. Delors said would be only for the occupied territories, External Political Affairs Commissioner Hans van den Broek said extra short-term aid of 20 million ECUs (\$24 million) was planned this year for Jericho and the Gaza Strip, which are due to be granted self-rule by Israel.

The ministers also agreed to step up efforts to end the Arab boycott of Israel, and to negotiate an expanded cooperation and free trade accord with Israel.

The Belgian minister added that officials of Israeli and Palestinian teams would also be invited to EC headquarters soon to map out their economic requirements.

Mr. Claes, who chaired the meeting, said Mr. Arafat needed political support "and concrete (development) plans so that the local Palestinian population can be shown that something fundamental is changing."

The Belgian foreign minister said the invitation to Mr. Arafat would be delivered in Washington Monday during the signing of the Israeli-Palestinian accord on Palestinian autonomy.

Mr. Claes, currently president of the EC Council of Foreign Ministers, will be present at the signing, along with Mr. Delors.

British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said it was inevitable that some people of both sides would be opposed to the accord, and it was important that they should realise that going ahead was less dangerous than trying to back out of it.

"We all feel that this is a breakthrough which is comparable to the collapse of the Berlin Wall. It is a beginning and now it has to be followed through on the economic and the political side," Mr. Hurd said.

German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel said: "We must show Israel and the Palestinians that the courage to take risks is paying off."

COLUMN

Princess Anne reported pregnant

LONDON (R) — Princess Anne, the only daughter of Queen Elizabeth II, is expecting a child at 43 after 10 months of marriage to her second husband, the People newspaper reported Sunday. In what it termed a world exclusive, the tabloid newspaper said Anne and naval Commander Tim Laurence were expecting a child early in 1994. "We are not prepared to discuss possible pregnancies until the moment comes when the couple involved are ready to announce it," a Buckingham Palace spokesman said. The newspaper quoted a friend of the princess as saying: "It's been kept a closely guarded secret but I have been told she is three months pregnant. It's wonderful."

The newspaper also quoted a well-known peer who is friendly with the couple as saying Anne was "absolutely thrilled". The princess has two children, Peter and Zara, from her first marriage to Captain Mark Phillips. This marriage to the former cavalry captain ended in divorce in April 1992 after 18 years, the last three lived apart.

Ministers speak of bullying, charming Thatcher

LONDON (R) — Margaret Thatcher, the iron lady of British politics, dominated her cabinet through intimidation, bullying and shouting but she also knew how to use feminine wiles to get her own way, according to several ex-ministers. Ministers during Lady Thatcher's 11 years in office as Britain's first woman prime minister described in a television programme aired Saturday how she "savaged ministers" verbally, or cut them down to size with a "piercing look or cutting phrase."

Kenneth Baker, a former minister who narrated the BBC programme based on his memoirs and called "Maggie's Ministers", also threw some light on the legend of Lady Thatcher's handbag, which entered into Britain's political lexicon as "handbagging", or being brow-beaten into submission by Lady Thatcher during meetings. Mr. Baker said that ministers lived in dread of Mrs. Thatcher opening her handbag during a cabinet session to produce from its depths a policy briefing of unknown origin which would directly rebut their own arguments on thorny policy issues. According to Mervyn Rifkin, currently defence minister in John Major's cabinet, Lady Thatcher deliberately used intimidation to get her way. He quoted her as saying at the start of one cabinet session, "Well I haven't much time today — only enough time to explode and have my way."

Major's Chancellor of the Exchequer (Finance Minister) Kenneth Clarke, who served Lady Thatcher as health and then education minister, said she used her femininity to her advantage. "She did use her femininity as a weapon. She didn't just shout and bully," Mr. Clarke said.

Sewage emergency proclaimed in San Diego

SAN DIEGO, California (AFP) — California's governor declared a state of emergency in San Diego county after a controlled flow of raw sewage from Mexico polluted a river valley and beaches here.

The magnitude of this disaster has the potential to exceed the capabilities of the services, personnel and facilities of the cities in San Diego county," Governor Pete Wilson said. The declaration will allow him to apply for federal aid to clean up the sewage. Untreated sewage for weeks has been flowing north from Tijuana, Mexico, into the Tijuana River Valley and sully California beaches. On Tuesday, the San Diego City Council declared a sewage emergency, a measure necessary before the International Boundary and Water Commission can erect a temporary U.S. treatment facility to store sewage during the day so it can be shipped back to Tijuana at night when that city's treatment plant is not working at full capacity. The U.S. government plans to construct a \$300-million plant at the border by 1993 to eliminate the problem.

'Bionauts' to return after 2 years in test tube

TUCSON, Arizona (R) — Eight "bionauts" who have spent two years living in the world's largest test tube will emerge from their "Biosphere 2" on Sept. 26, exactly 24 months after entering it, a spokesman said Friday. Biosphere 2, a huge glass and steel structure set in the Arizona Desert outside Tucson, consists of a series of seven domes and spires, some five stories tall. It is intended as a model for a possible future colony on Mars or the moon.



Haidar Abdul Shafi

Gaza Strip, where he lives, in a war against Egypt. They withdrew under U.S. pressure but occupied it again in the 1967 Middle East war and are still there.

Dr. Abdul Shafi said a number of people taken away by the Israelis in 1956 never returned. Their families appealed to the Red Cross but nobody could find out what had happened.

"Then by chance next year, I think in the winter, there was plenty of rain and there was flooding. Then a ditch was discovered where there were about 40 bodies. All of them had been shot. Many of them were these people who were missing."

Dr. Abdul Shafi does not volunteer these memories. He is not bitter. He is just not sure that peace is really here.